



THE INDEPENDENT

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FREE TODAY: GUIDE TO THE BEST AND WORST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

LEAGUE TABLES - 36-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION



How the schools measure up

Condon set to climb down over 'institutional racism' charge

SIR PAUL CONDON, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is preparing to make a dramatic climb down and admit for the first time that his force is "institutionally racist".

His acceptance of a new definition of "institutional racism" as laid out in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report will infuriate rank and file police officers but will boost the chances of Britain's most powerful policeman keeping his job.

Until now, Sir Paul, whose career hangs in the balance of Sir William Macpherson's report, has refused to admit that his force was "institutionally racist", arguing that the phrase suggested, wrongly, that the majority of his officers were prejudiced and the force was deliberately discriminatory.

Crucially, the definition of institutional racism chosen by Sir William in his report is expected to refer to "unwitting" prejudices and racist stereotyping. The Lawrence report is expected to say that if any chief officer cannot accept the problem of institutionalised racism within the police service they should be sacked. But the new definition will allow Sir Paul to endorse it because it says racism can be "unwitting".

According to leaked extracts of the inquiry's findings, the definition of institutionalised racism will be: "The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin."

"It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The report is expected to state: "There must be an unequivocal acceptance of the problem of institutionalised racism and its nature before it can be addressed."

The report will conclude that there was a "pernicious and institutionalised racism" among the Metropolitan Police.

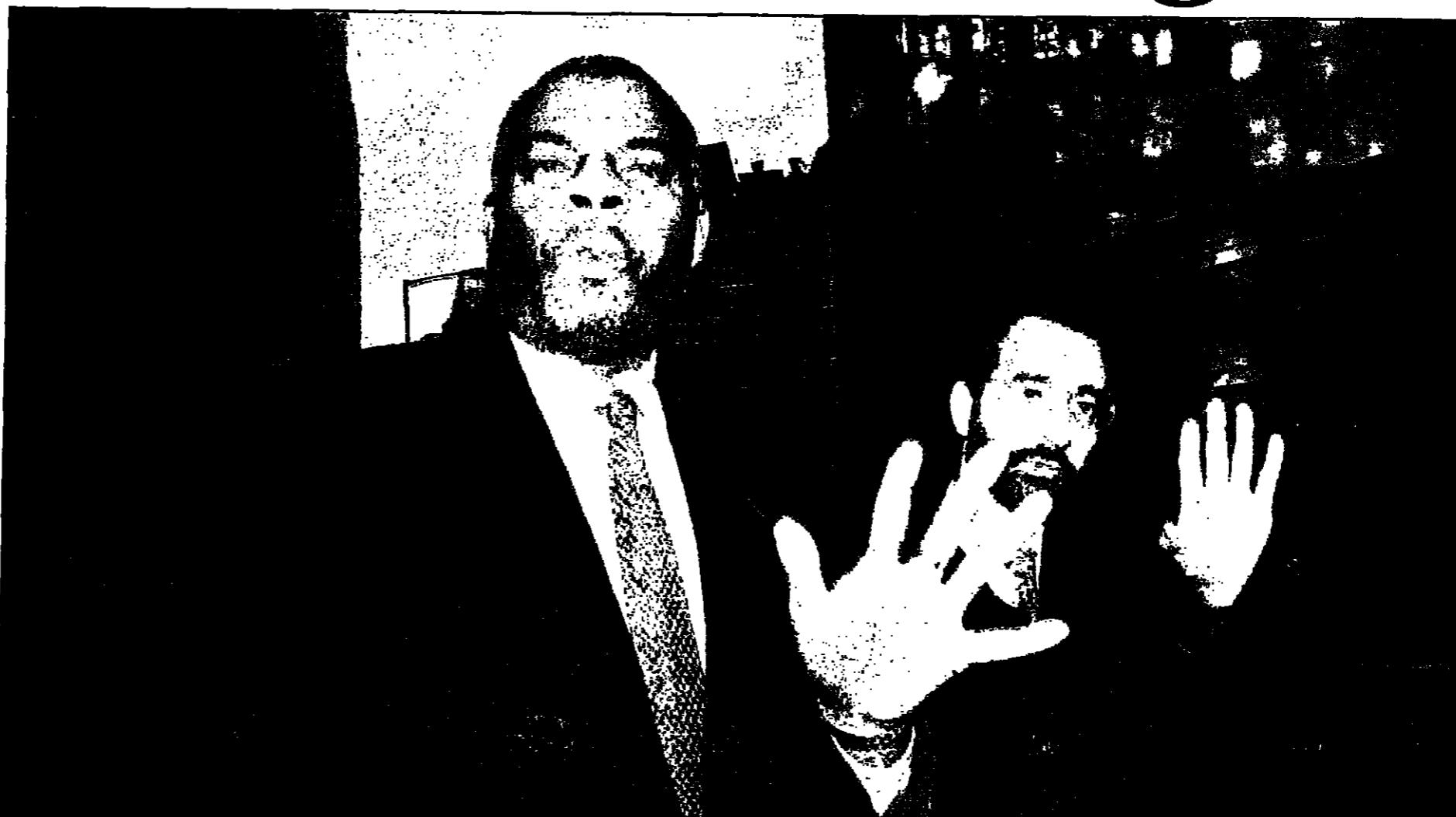
Speaking just before it was leaked, Sir Paul said: "I hope, pray, anticipate that the judge will say something very significant around institutional racism. I will embrace that with zeal."

The Commissioner spent about two hours at the Home Office yesterday reading the completed report. Stephen Lawrence's parents, Doreen and Neville, also accepted an invitation to the Home Office to read the report. Sir Paul has insisted that he will not resign unless the report accuses him personally of malpractice or dishonesty. A senior Scotland Yard source said: "He's (Sir Paul) determined to stay. He has no intention of leaving before January 2000 when he has said he will retire."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said Sir Paul expressed his concern at the inquiry that the phrase "institutional racism" could be interpreted "as meaning that most police officers were deliberately racist".

He asked Sir William to provide a "new workable definition" that could act as a "rallying point for reform". But some campaigners believe Sir Paul's position is untenable even if he admits to institutionalised racism.

Suresh Grover, the head of The Monitoring Group, a west London based anti-racist



Neville Lawrence (left) arriving at the Home Office in London yesterday to study the Macpherson inquiry report into the murder of his son, Stephen Fiona Hanson

group, said: "As police commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul dug himself into a massive hole when he vehemently refused to admit to institutionalised racism."

"I can't see how he can remain as head of the Met. His authority has been so badly

damaged." Jack Straw also suffered some damage to his authority yesterday during angry clashes in the Commons when the Home Secretary was attacked for his "autocratic" attempt to ban publication of details of the report before the official launch on Wednesday.

Mr Straw disclosed that an inquiry had been set up to find who leaked parts of the document to a Sunday newspaper.

Shadow Home Secretary Sir Norman Fowler branded his efforts to block publication of the inquiry report "entirely unjustified and an autocratic course

of action". Mr Straw is expected to use Wednesday's publication of the Lawrence report as a springboard to announce sweeping reforms to race laws and police training.

Among the changes will be to bring the police under the Race Relations Act, from which

it is currently exempt. This will enable individuals to take officers to court for racist behaviour and makes forces subject to investigation by the Commission for Racial Equality.

There will also be a national recruitment target of seven

per cent of officers from ethnic minorities, and race relations training for all police officers.

Public bodies will also be expected to monitor the employment and promotion of ethnic minority employees.

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Start preparing for Euro now, says Blair

By ANDREW GRICE AND
DIANE COYLE



Tony Blair: Will not set a date for changeover

TONY BLAIR will today issue the Government's most positive statement yet on the single currency by calling on the private and public sectors to start preparing now for British entry.

But the National Changeover Plan for the euro unveiled in the Prime Minister's House of Commons statement will disappoint businesses looking for a clear lead from the Government on when to start their preparations.

Mr Blair's statement will be seen as the clearest signal yet that Britain will join - but he will reject calls to set a target date. It is therefore likely to anger both the pro- and anti-sides of the business community.

Experts believe the Government's own bill for converting from pounds to euros could be in the region of £1bn, based on the cost to the City of its preparations for the launch of the single currency on 1 January this year.

However, Treasury rules prevent the Government from

spending any public money on converting computer systems to euros before the referendum. A letter circulated to departments explicitly bars spending on computer equipment, staff, pilot projects or consultants ahead of a "yes" vote.

This will frustrate businesses looking for details of how much the Government will spend and when, before they are prepared to spend any of their own money.

Social services to be targeted by 'hit squads'

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

MINISTERS WILL today threaten to introduce controversial hit squads to take over social services departments which are failing children and the elderly.

The measure will form part of a Green Paper to raise standards of social care. Also included will be plans to publish a series of 46 performance tables covering services ranging from child protection to care for the elderly.

"It would need to be primary legislation and we want to introduce a Bill at the earliest possible opportunity," said a ministerial source.

The reforms, to be announced in the Green Paper, "a new approach to social services performance", follow a report last year by Sir William Utting into a series of child abuse cases during the Seventies and Eighties.

Haunted by the scandals, ministers are determined to tackle continuing anxiety about the record of local authorities

for poor social services. The failures have included Labour-controlled Hackney in east London, where a social worker abused six children in care before he died of AIDS, and systematic problems in child care in Labour-controlled Ealing, also in London - described last year by the then health minister Paul Boateng as one of the worst cases he had seen.

The Green Paper warns that the Government will seek primary legislation to give it new wider powers to intervene where necessary to require an authority to draw up an action

plan for improvement and deliver a specified level of performance by a set deadline; force an authority to accept external management help; and, in the most serious cases, for responsibility to be transferred to another authority or another management team to run the services.

It says: "The Government will work to help authorities to tackle poor performance and will act in partnership with the Local Government Association where appropriate. Where there are serious failures, the Government will be prepared to take firm action to secure improvement, including statutory intervention powers which will be exercised when necessary."

The Government will act to protect vulnerable people who are put at risk by poor services and it will ensure that it has the statutory powers at its disposal to do this."

A spokesman for the Labour-controlled Local Government Authority said: "The Government is seeking draconian powers. We want to raise standards through co-operation."

'Takes us to the end of the earth via the rich landscape of the human heart'

THE TIMES

JOHN
le CARRÉ

SINGLE & SINGLE

SINGLE & SINGLE

The new bestseller from
John le Carré

OUT TODAY IN HARDBACK

Hodder & Stoughton

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Profits at HSBC fell
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INSIDE THE REVIEW

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Straw orders inquiry into leak

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, announced a formal investigation last night into the leak of elements of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Home Office ministers, their advisers, and the civil servants who received copies of the report by Sir William Macpherson will be questioned during the inquiry, which will be conducted by David Ormand, the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office.

Only a small number of copies of Sir William's report into the death of the black teenager were made inside the Home Office, and it was not copied to other Whitehall departments. But it was partially leaked to a Sunday newspaper.

Earlier yesterday Downing Street played down the prospect of a leak inquiry, expressing scepticism that the leaker would be found. But Mr Straw condemned the "breach of trust" involved in the disclosure and told MPs: "We are very serious about tracing this leak."

The Home Secretary clashed with the Tory opposition as he made a Commons statement defending his decision to obtain an injunction against *The Sunday Telegraph* on Saturday night, which forced the newspaper to drop the report from its later editions.

After Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, attacked the legal action, Mr Straw accused him of speaking as "chairman of a newspaper company rather than as a member of this House."

Mr Straw was forced by the

Speaker Betty Boothroyd, to withdraw his remark and apologise to Sir Norman, who is non-executive chairman of Regional Independent Media Holdings Ltd.

Sir Norman said the unprecedented and "autocratic" injunction was a "shabby exercise that shows this Government at its worst". Dismissing Mr Straw's claim that the Lawrence report should have been disclosed to Parliament, he said: "It is the Government that is the chief leaker in advance of its own announcements."

The Home Secretary said he decided that prior publication of the report was likely to "cause distress to the Lawrence family" and subject the Metropolitan Police and Sir Paul Condon, its Commissioner, to wholly unfair speculation to which they could not respond. In a hint that he will back Sir Paul's fight to avoid resigning over the report, Mr Straw praised Sir Paul and his force for their "very fine work over the years".

He said: "The claims that the freedom of the press has been challenged by this injunction are absurd." He disclosed that the BBC telephoned a Home Office press officer, claiming that *The Sunday Telegraph* had obtained a copy of the full Lawrence report. A Home Office source said: "We thought they were going to run a ten page supplement on it."

Mr Straw was forced by the



Sir Paul Condon, arriving at Scotland Yard yesterday morning, has apparently gained the backing of the Home Secretary against calls for his resignation over the Stephen Lawrence report

Two big words that lie at heart of case

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Sheffield University talks of a culture in which laudable policies are formulated but not put into practice because of the intransigence of a section of officers. He says that young officers who come into the police with open minds are in the danger of having them shut by the prevailing culture.

The origins of the phrase "institutional racism" lie in the civil rights struggle of the late 1960s, when Stokely Carmichael used it to highlight the problem of how racists within public bodies and the business sector tried to block black integration and employment.

However, Assistant Commissioner Denis O'Connor, who is overseeing the issue of race and policing for Scotland Yard, says that the charge of institutional racism in policing and judicial organisations is now regarded in America as unhelpful. It has been replaced by attempts to analyse specific issues like the stop-and-searching by police of members of the ethnic minority communities.

To some officers, even Sir Paul Condon's limited acceptance of institutional racism within his force is a betrayal. Mike Bennett, the recently retired chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, who is said to reflect the opinion of many white rank-and-file officers, said: "The whole thing is turning into a farce. There would have been a lot of support for the Commissioner among his policemen and women if he had stuck to his guns and said 'yes, there are individual officers who are racists and should be out' and 'no, the Metropolitan Police is not institutionally racist'."

"If he has changed his mind on this, it is to keep his job, and he won't be getting much respect from anyone for this. This is another victory for the politically correct lobby."

The views of law enforcement reformers have shifted significantly since then. Many believe that Lord Scarman's view was too limited and allowed racism to fester, hidden by the smokescreen of "a few rotten apples". Dr Robin Oakley, an influential adviser to Scotland Yard and the Home Office, said in evidence to the Lawrence inquiry that the "rotten apples" argument was misleading.

Another eminent expert on race and policing, Simon Holdaway, professor of sociology at

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Nation of Islam member who attacked PC guilty of affray

BY MELVYN HOWE

A MEMBER of Nation of Islam was found guilty yesterday of attacking a police officer at the inquiry into the race murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Rasali Yusufi-Muhammad was said to have been part of a "buying mob" that tried to storm the crowded hearing in south London on the day that five men suspected of the black teenager's killing in April 1993 were due to give evidence.

The 29-year-old care worker – wearing the black Islamic or-

ganisation's trademark dark suit, white shirt and red bow tie at the time – twice kneed PC Stephen Dukamp in the face during an "explosion of violence" last June. The constable, whose colleagues had to use CS gas to control the violence, said that he had been "extremely scared" and ended up "black and blue".

At Southwark Crown Court, in south London, when the jury

announced the verdict after more than six hours of deliberation, a sigh went up from some 30 Nation of Islam members in the public gallery. The news received a similar reaction from supporters in the corridor outside.

Adjourning the case for three weeks for reports, Judge Jeffrey Rucker told defence counsel Matthew Ryder: "It is of any assistance to the defendant, I obviously have to think forward in these mat-

ters. In the extremely fraught atmosphere of that inquiry that gave rise to this case, everything that has happened since and is still happening, it seems to me that it would be wrong to raise the temperature at all if it is possible to avoid it."

"What I have in mind is a community service order," he added. He told Yusufi-Muhammad that bail would be continued, and said he would reserve his decision on a prosecution application for £1,600 costs.

Outside the court Mr Ryder said that while he still had to give the matter consideration: "It seems very likely that we will appeal against conviction."

Constable Dukamp had told the trial that up to 50 members of the Nation of Islam behaved "almost military-like" at Hammish House at Elephant and Castle, where the inquiry was held. Two of them stood "sentry duty" either side of a lift, while another directed the movements of the rest with a megaphone.

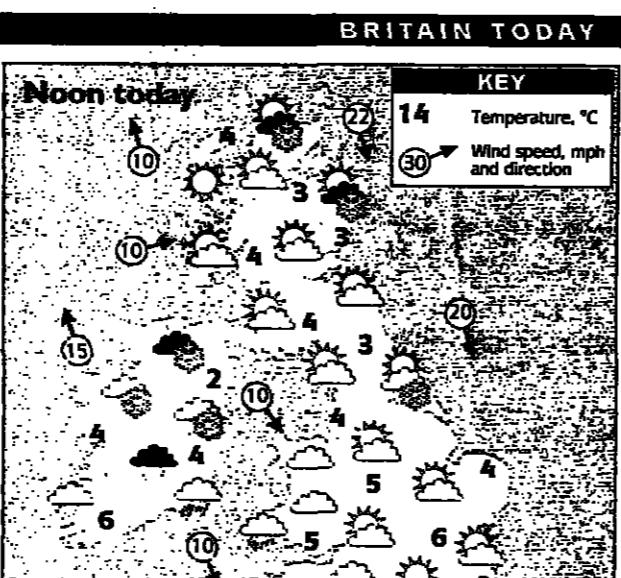
"They ignored everyone else – almost like a guard at the palace," he said. He said violence flared when some tried to jump a queue of several hundred people waiting to get in to the hearing.

"At least three of the Nation of Islam came on top of me," PC Dukamp recalled. He was punched to the floor before twice being kneed in the face by Yusufi-Muhammad. The officer managed to grab his leg, and hang on "for dear life".

In evidence, Yusufi-Muhammad, of Northolt, Middlesex, had insisted that he had simply been hunting for his glasses when the constable struck him with his baton, put him in a headlock and dragged him across the floor: he added that the Nation of Islam stood for "peace and orderliness" and "emanated contagious love".

A written statement by Stephen's father, Neville Lawrence, was read out to the court. In Mr Lawrence, who paid a brief visit to the court yesterday, said the Nation of Islam had attended the inquiry at his invitation. He said he could "not imagine them starting on trouble".

In his final address to the jury defence counsel, Mr Ryder insisted police had arrested the wrong man and then tried to conceal the fact. "The cover-ups, the denials and the massaging of the truth needs to stop," he declared.



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Storm as Raphael defends rapist Koestler



The author and philosopher Arthur Koestler, left, and novelist Frederic Raphael

THE NOVELIST Frederic Raphael has provoked outrage by suggesting that the author and film-maker Jill Craigie "may have been excited by the risks" of being with Arthur Koestler, the author and philosopher who raped her.

Defending Koestler after the recent revelation that he raped Ms Craigie, wife of the former Labour leader Michael Foot, Raphael claims that "abuse of women was (if it is not still) a certificate of virility in many great men".

Yesterday a shocked Jill Craigie said: "The man doesn't know what he is talking about. I didn't know Koestler's character at all. I was very young and naive. I just thought he had gone mad. I never knew he could do such a thing."

"I remember sitting on my steps with my clothes torn for what seemed like hours."

In one of the biggest literary controversies of last year, a new biography of Koestler by Professor David Cesarani revealed him as a serial rapist and disclosed how one of his victims had been Jill Craigie in 1951.

Following the biography, students at Edinburgh University successfully demanded that a bust of Koestler, a benefactor of the university, be removed.

But in an article in the political journal *Prospect* this week, Raphael leaps to Koestler's defence, saying Ms Craigie and the writer Elizabeth Jane Howard whom Koestler is said to have treated callously, demanding she have an abortion after making her preg-

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

nant, "were not foolish virgins."

Both, he says, "have a right to their grievances, but both were ambitious and experienced women who liked the company of the powerful and the famous. Both had enough intelligence to read Koestler for a dangerous man. Is it any disparagement to suggest that they might, at the time, have been excited by the risks they were taking?"

"They did not deserve what he did, or is said to have done, but they were not foolish virgins and they knew Koestler's character. We are entitled to wonder – as Cesarani did not, but should have – what they were doing with him."

Frederic Raphael, whose novel about Oxford life *The Glittering Prizes* was a best-seller, is particularly provocative about the incident involving Ms Craigie.

He writes: "As for the rape of

Jill Craigie (Mrs Michael Foot)

which has made all the headlines, we need not doubt that force was used in that understandable shame explains why the facts have taken so long to come out. Without being ungenerous, however, I was reminded of a judge who told me that the crucial questions in such cases were: 'Did you bite him? Did you scratch him?'

"I dare say that fear and embarrassment and even a sort of generosity led Michael Foot's wife to file no loud contemporary complaint. But the limitations of biography, especially when one witness is alive and another dead, are obvious here... We may have had the facts; we do not, and cannot, have them all."

In an interview after publication of the biography last year, Ms Craigie told how Koestler had abused her hospitality when she invited him to lunch and raped her while hanging her head against the foot. "This was all about power," she said. "I tried to forget about it."

"Everyone kept going on about what a wonderful man Koestler was. One day, our friend Anthony Crosland said: 'You know he's a rapist.' Michael was shocked. I was relieved. I'd always thought there must have been others. But I still couldn't admit he'd raped me. Then, years later, I got rather drunk at a dinner party and it suddenly came out."

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Women's Aid Centre, which took a keen interest in the removal of the Koestler bust from Edinburgh University, said yesterday: "Mr Raphael's remarks are extremely unhelpful. Rape is a crime and it is the rapist's responsibility. The blame is on the perpetrator of the crime."

In his essay castigating Professor Cesarani's biography of Koestler, Raphael expands on his theme: "Cesarani deplores his subject's phallocentric behaviour towards women, just as we might deplore the acquisitiveness of the noblest Romans and Athenians in slavery. Do we

not, therefore, admire the Parthenon or read Catullus? The abuse of women was (if it is not still) a certificate of virility in many great men, of whom Bertrand Russell is, in many respects, a more lurid and despicable example. If we are to dispraise famous men, who is to be spared?"

Raphael says that Koestler was a hallowed figure in my youthful literary pantheon...

My only personal contact with him was when I edited Bookmarks, a volume of essays

compiled to raise funds to campaign for Public Lending Right.

Already shaken by Parkinson's disease, he contributed punctually, although he had warned that writing in English was still a labour. This non-sexual

act of altruistic solidarity was, of course, too trivial to warrant

mention by his biographer."

Prospect's editor David Goodhart said yesterday: "Frederic Raphael's essay is a polemical piece and I'm happy to publish it. It is provocative and we don't have to agree with every piece we publish."



The author and film-maker Jill Craigie was raped by Arthur Koestler in 1951

GLITTERINGLY SUCCESSFUL CONTROVERSIALIST

FRÉDÉRIC RAPHAEL lists one of his recreations in Who's Who as "having gardened." It could just as easily be "having caused controversy". The 57-year-old author and screenwriter is best known for his comic novel on life at Oxford and beyond, *The Glittering Prizes*.

Prizes. But he has a number of other successful novels to his credit and has written the screenplays for a series of hit movies ranging from *Darling* and *For From the Madding Crowd* in the Sixties to the latest, still to be seen, Stanley Kubrick film, *Eyes*

Wide Shut. But in recent years he has become celebrated as an instigator of literary spats. He publicly accused A.S. Byatt of giving a book a good review simply because he had given it a bad one. He also launched a vicious attack on theatre director Jonathan Miller noting how he always moved in "more exalted circles" when the two of them were friends at Cambridge. Dr Miller's wife claimed that Raphael's venom stemmed from Miller refusing a dinner invitation back in 1957.

DAVID LISTER

Lewinsky interview 'won't make Clinton look good'

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

MONICA LEWINSKY is to describe to a British television audience for the first time how she had "effectively been raped by the American constitution" during the past 13 months.

In an interview for Channel 4, to be broadcast next week, Ms Lewinsky gives a candid and "moving" account of the "Zippergate" affair.

Jon Snow, the veteran Channel 4 newsreader, has interviewed everyone from heads of state to suspected war criminals but yesterday he admitted that he had been very nervous about meeting Ms Lewinsky.

Mr Snow spent eight hours interviewing the former White House intern at her mother's New York penthouse and said it had been a gripping experience. Although prevented by the special prosecutor, Kenneth Starr from asking about the day she was arrested and detained by the FBI for 12 hours, Mr Snow said he was satisfied that he had been able to get her true story. "It was unbelievably harrowing and very moving. Her story is amazing," he said. "It ranges from the salacious to the constitutional." Mr Snow said



Jon Snow and Monica Lewinsky in New York Channel 4

they had discussed her feelings for the President then and now as well as Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. "It will not make him look any better."

Mr Snow first met Ms Lewinsky on Friday night prior to the interview on Sunday. "She was quite nervous and I think a bit wary and I was too," he said. "She had prepared very well for the interview – I glimpsed a stack of notes that she had on the bottom of her bed and she was looking at them before [the interview]."

Despite having been through

endless questioning about her relationship with President Bill Clinton, Mr Snow said Ms Lewinsky was very spontaneous and not formulaic in her replies. "She laughs a lot, she is very emotional and thoughtful."

"When I was first asked to interview her I thought how will we sustain an hour, but I thought we could have done 24 hours and it would have been interesting," he said admitting that personally he would have been happy to pay double the \$400,000 for the interview.

But he denied that he had

fallen for Ms Lewinsky's charms: "I am not besotted. She has very obvious shortcomings that will come out in the interview. She is not little Miss Perfect."

He was, however, struck by her resilience and how well she looked under the circumstances: "She has come through hell and it would have been much more convenient for all if she had had a breakdown and ended up in a unit somewhere. She has come through an ordeal that is impossible to conceive of."

"She had every prop kicked away because anyone who spoke to her got subpoenaed and she was exceedingly isolated."

Asked if Ms Lewinsky was bitter about the events of the past year, Mr Snow said she was fired up and bursting to tell her side of the story. "She feels incredibly aggrieved about the picture of her that emerges. I have been chastened by what I found, which was the appalling abuse of a young woman's rights, and it is very painful to listen to."

The interview will be broadcast on Thursday 4 March, at 9.30pm.

Why Batman is really a turkey

BY CLARE GARNER

FANS OF comic books have branded *Batman and Robin*, starring George Clooney and Uma Thurman, the worst film ever made involving comic characters.

Kev Sutherland, who is organising Comics 99, the UK's comic festival, asked 200 members of the Comic Creators Guild, and readers of magazine produced by the companies Comics International and SFX magazines, to name their top 10 worst comic movies.

The "absolute stinkers" will feature in an all-night film show

at the festival in Bristol between 2 and 4 April. "A fundamental problem with many comic strip characters is that they look good on the page but when you try and dress people up in those clothes they can look frankly ludicrous," said Mr Sutherland.

The second worst film was *Howard the Duck*, directed by George Lucas, who also made *Star Wars* and "should have known what he was doing,"

said Mr Sutherland. "Unfortunately the film technology wasn't as advanced enough to make a convincing duck."

Among the other films singled out for criticism were *The Fat Slags* based on characters from *Viz* magazine. "The comic, *Viz*, is fast-moving and original," said Mr Sutherland. "The fat slags were animated in clay and failed to bring life even to that medium."

Judge Dredd was deemed so bad that the editor of the original comic, 2000 AD, is to give delegates at Comics 99 a frame-

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WITH THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Why Barclays are banking on a £4m man – in Business Review, the new weekly magazine section

PLUS: WHO'S THE TOP CORPORATE LAWYER – AS VOTED BY CORPORATE LAWYERS

THE INDEPENDENT
BUSINESS REVIEW

FASHION
NEW YORK
REPORT
PLUS
SECRETARIAL

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VENER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDRIAS WHITHAM SMITH

Pressure on IRA to lift exiles ban

A CAMPAIGN to force the IRA to lift orders exiling people from Northern Ireland is being mounted in London, Belfast and Dublin to bolster the crisis-hit peace process. Labour MPs and IRA dissidents are linking up to allow the return to the Province of the exiled men and their families as a goodwill gesture and confidence-building measure in the run-up to the March 10 handing over of powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. It is believed that hundreds have been forced to flee into

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

stop the punishment beatings. We hope we can do the same with exile," said one of the campaigners.

They are hoping for a public show of condemnation for the use of exile, including a possible rock concert in Belfast, with performers such as Bono, to welcome the return of exiled men from mainland Britain.

Many of those forced into exile are petty criminals or alleged drug dealers who have fallen foul of the paramilitaries

covering their community. They are warned that they will be beaten or killed if they stay.

"The IRA's attitude is that the Brits can have this problem on their doorstep," said one former IRA man. "Sometimes entire families have to find homes in mainland cities such as Manchester, where the Maranatha religious organisation helps settle people forced out of their own homes. There are cases of people arriving with no friends or connections in Manchester who have been warned not to

talk to the police or press, or they will face another beating.

The Maranatha organisation says it had a group of 14 to deal with. One victim said:

"Northern Ireland is like Chicago with Guinness – all Al Capone and the Mafia. Money

drives the people, not politics."

Harry Barnes, the Labour MP and co-chairman of the New Dialogue group, which supports the peace process, is leading the campaign to end the exile of people from Northern Ireland. The Peace Train cam-

paigners who protested for peace in the North and South of Ireland are expected to throw their weight behind the movement to end exile, and there are likely to be moves in the Irish Parliament.

Mr Blair, who met Gerry Adams last week at Downing Street, and Mr Ahern believe the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, has little room for manoeuvre unless the IRA is prepared to make a gesture by abandoning some of its weapons. Mr Trimble, the first minister in the Assembly, is under pressure from his party not to set up the Assembly executive with ministerial seats for Sinn Fein unless decommissioning has started. The IRA leadership is also

under pressure from dissidents who support the armed struggle. There are continuing unconfirmed rumours at Westminster about a breakaway dissident group, calling itself Continuity IRA, threatening a 'spectacular' bomb attack on the mainland around 10 March to show that there will be no surrender of weapons. They are said to be more in tune with the thinking of IRA leaders than the so-called Real IRA blamed for the Omagh bombing.

Republican nurse held over Omagh

THE CHAIRMAN of the republican 32-County Sovereignty Committee was under interrogation last night by detectives investigating the Omagh bomb outrage.

Francis Mackey, 44, was detained at the Tyrone & Fermanagh psychiatric hospital, on the outskirts of the town, where he works as a nurse, and taken to a Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Londonderry for questioning.

His home at the village of Mountfield, seven miles from Omagh, was also searched.

Family members refused to make any comment, but political associates claimed the arrest was an attempt by the British and Irish governments to silence republican critics of the Northern Ireland peace agreement.

His party is linked to the Real IRA, the dissident republican group which carried out the car bombing six months ago.

Mr Mackey's detention brought to six the number of men held in custody in Northern Ireland in connection with the atrocity.

Another three were detained yesterday in the Crossmaglen and Cullaville areas of south Armagh in a huge security swoop which involved police and troops.

Detailed searches of homes and nearby property were also carried out.

The men are all being held at Strand Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Derry.

Three more men are being interviewed in Monaghan after raids in the border areas of the Irish Republic.

Two others held in Carrick-

By DERIC HENDERSON

macross have been released.

Twenty-nine people were killed and 350 injured by the car-bomb explosion.

Mr Mackey, an independent councillor in Omagh, where he has resisted public demands for him to quit and leave the town because of his party's Real IRA connections, can be held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for up to seven days without being charged.

He split with Sinn Fein because of his opposition to the leadership's peace strategy of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

Uniformed RUC officers detained him in the hospital grounds just after 8am.

A spokesperson for the Sperin Lakeland Trust, which manages the hospital where he was detained, said: "It is our policy not to comment on individual members of the staff."

Senior RUC and Garda officers who have been involved in an unprecedented cross-border inquiry to try to track down the bombers have identified at least six men they believe were directly involved in the 15 August attack.

It is understood that they have also established where the 450lb-500 lb bomb was assembled and the route the terrorists took to transport it into Omagh from the outskirts of the town before abandoning the red Vauxhall Cavalier car in Market Street.

Mr Mackey's party insisted that the arrest was an attempt by the British government and the Republic's Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, to silence oppo-



Police officers and firefighters in Market Street, Omagh, after the car-bomb attack, which killed 29 people and injured 350

PA

ents of the Good Friday peace deal and switch attention away from the deadlock on decommissioning, which is threatening to delay the setting up of an executive at the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Vice-chairman Bernadette Sande McEvitt claimed: "The cynical timing of these arrests cannot be overlooked."

She added: "We call all those who support freedom of speech and the right of free political thought to condemn this latest wave of harassment."

The Conservative Party's shadow Northern Ireland minister, Andrew Mackay, was in Omagh yesterday to meet survivors and relatives amid claims that families are not

getting adequate financial compensation.

One of them, Laurence Rush, 57, whose wife, Lulu, was among the 29 dead, said last night that he yearned for the day when the terrorists responsible were eventually jailed. He said: "I want a just vengeance. God allows me a vengeance. He allows me to feel

like this because my wife of 40 years contributed to this country by having three fine children. These people (Real IRA) destroyed that."

"They destroyed the fabric of this town and this country. Young people have been left without limbs. These people have got to be brought to justice."

"I hope my prayers will be answered. We have to find the killers of our wives and loved ones. Omagh is our home town. It's the place where we live and where we brought up our children."

"It might not be the most beautiful town in the world, but it can be made into that at a spiritual level."

Forty witnesses are expected to be called in the course of the inquest, which is expected to last up to two weeks. In the court yesterday, the Maze's governor, Stephen Davis, explained how the killers scaled the wall and ambushed Wright as he sat in a bus waiting to be taken to the visiting block. But Mr Wright asked how the INLA could have known about the visit in advance.

The inquest heard from several prison officers who described the LVF leader's final moments. One, Joseph Flanagan, also described how the rival INLA and LVF prisoners were taunting each other.

The inquest was adjourned until today.

IN BRIEF

Dr Shipman: seven more charges

A GP accused of killing eight patients appeared in court yesterday charged with seven further murders. Harold Shipman, 52, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, was remanded in custody. The alleged victims were Muriel Grimshaw, 76, Norah Nuttall, 65, Laura Wagstaff, 81, Maureen Ward, 57, Pamela Hillier, 68, Marie West, 81, Lizzie Adams, 77.

Bread ingredient is asthma risk

A SUBSTANCE added to flour to improve the quality of bread poses a "considerable" asthma risk to people working in bakeries and mills, researchers said yesterday. Alpha amylase, derived from the fungus *Aspergillus oryzae*, is added to flour to speed up the baking process.

Woman sues over HIV doctor

A WOMAN treated by an HIV-positive gynaecologist is to take legal action against a hospital which employed him. The patient treated by Olukayode Fasawe shortly before his death in February 1997, is to launch a civil damages claim for "psychiatric shock" against Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Tesco strengthens sales lead

TESCO HAS lengthened its lead over rivals, confirming its position as the number-one supermarket, according to Institute of Grocery Distribution figures. It secured 15.6 per cent of grocery sales in the year to June 1998.

MILES KINGSTON

Equity: Once a term meaning justice – now a posh word for money

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 2

Britons face fines for ski slope rescue

By JOHN LICHFIELD
Paris

A FRENCH prosecutor called yesterday for stiff fines and suspended prison sentences on three British businessmen who had to be rescued while skiing in a banned area during an avalanche alert two weeks ago. The court, in Albertville in the French Alps, delayed judgement until 29 March.

The three men in their 30s were rescued from the "black" (ie strictly prohibited) slope in the Val d'Isère the day after an

avalanche killed 12 people near Chamonix. The public prosecutor, Roger Ternoy, said the case had been brought "not because we want to persecute the English but because of the very real danger which the men brought on themselves and their rescuers".

Guy McBride, 58, Jonathan Fairley, 37, and Paul Crowther,

35, all business executives, denied the charge of "placing the lives of others in danger". They told the court that they had strayed onto the closed piste by mistake in poor visibility.

But the prosecutor, Mr Ternoy, one of the first in France to bring criminal charges against errant skiers, said one of the men had admitted to gendarmes that they had crossed warning tapes and signs. Shortly after they were rescued from

deep snow, an avalanche was triggered nearby.

Mr Ternoy called for three months suspended prison sentences and FF5000 (around £500) fines on each of the men. "The penalties interest me less than the examples they will set and the encouragement to caution they will broadcast to thoughtless people, whether on or off the recognised slopes," the prosecutor said.

He wanted to "wring the

neck" of two mistaken ideas often repeated by skiers – that the mountains are a place of freedom, and that there is such a thing as no-risk in the mountains. "A zone of liberty is not a zone of lawlessness and irresponsibility," he said.

The three men, who had been released on bail, said that they were not more than average skiers who did not normally ski "off-piste" but had lost their way in bad weather.

Their lawyer, Maitre Maurice Bodecher, called for the charges to be dismissed on the grounds that the municipal order under which the ski-slopes were closed was badly drawn up. It gave authority only for general safety precautions, not the closure of slopes. "Bringing cases to 'set an example' was bad justice," Mr Bodecher said. Most of the French Alps remain under severe avalanche warnings, after fresh falls of snow at the weekend.

Fear drives woman to have breasts removed

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

A HEALTHY woman with no history of breast cancer in her family is planning to have both her breasts removed to ensure she has no risk of succumbing to the disease.

Liz King, from Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, has pencilled in an appointment at a private hospital in Newcastle for the double mastectomy, which will cost her £3,500. However, the British Medical Association warned that any surgeon who carried out the operation could

be in breach of his ethical duty.

It is believed to be the first time a woman with no extra risk factors for breast cancer has opted for the radical preventive treatment. A handful of women with a strong family history of the disease and who are carriers of the BrCa1 gene for breast cancer have had the surgery in the past. Women who carry the BrCa1 gene have an 80 per cent

chance of developing breast cancer during their lifetime compared with less than 9 per cent for the average woman.

Mrs King, a former medical laboratory scientist, said: "A close colleague of mine died of breast cancer at the age of 40 years ago and it hit me hard. I look on my breasts as a risk factor I can do without."

"As a woman I have a 1-in-12 chance of contracting it and because I have no children I am at a higher risk."

AN ETON schoolboy was found hanged in his room at the Berkshire college yesterday. Two fellow pupils found the 15-year-old suspended from a cord in his bedroom shortly before breakfast time.

An ambulance was immediately called but the boy was pronounced dead and police were asked to investigate.

A spokesman for the police at Slough, Berkshire, confirmed that a schoolboy had been found hanged at Eton. The post-mortem examination is to be carried out

said that there were no suspicious circumstances.

The death was announced at morning assembly and lessons were continuing yesterday, although the boys were preparing for the start of their half term holiday which begins on Thursday.

The police spokesman did not name the dead boy but said that arrangements were being made to notify his parents of the tragedy. A post-mortem examination is to be carried out

on his body and an inquest will be held.

John Lewis, the headmaster of Eton, said that the dead boy had been an excellent pupil who appeared to be making good progress in his work and at games. He was in his second year.

"He enjoyed the company of others and was much respected by them. The school's sympathy goes out at this time to the boy's parents and family and his friends," he said.

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 23 February 1999

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 23 February

FASHION
NEW YORK
REPORT
PLUS
SECRETARIAL

ban

Wright's
murder
'state
arranged

Servers are the
engines of
e-business}

Every month 53,000 servers go online.

IBM

On the Web, everything depends on the server.

The Web is no longer simply a better way to publish and distribute information. It has become the conduit for the billions of information exchanges that make up business.

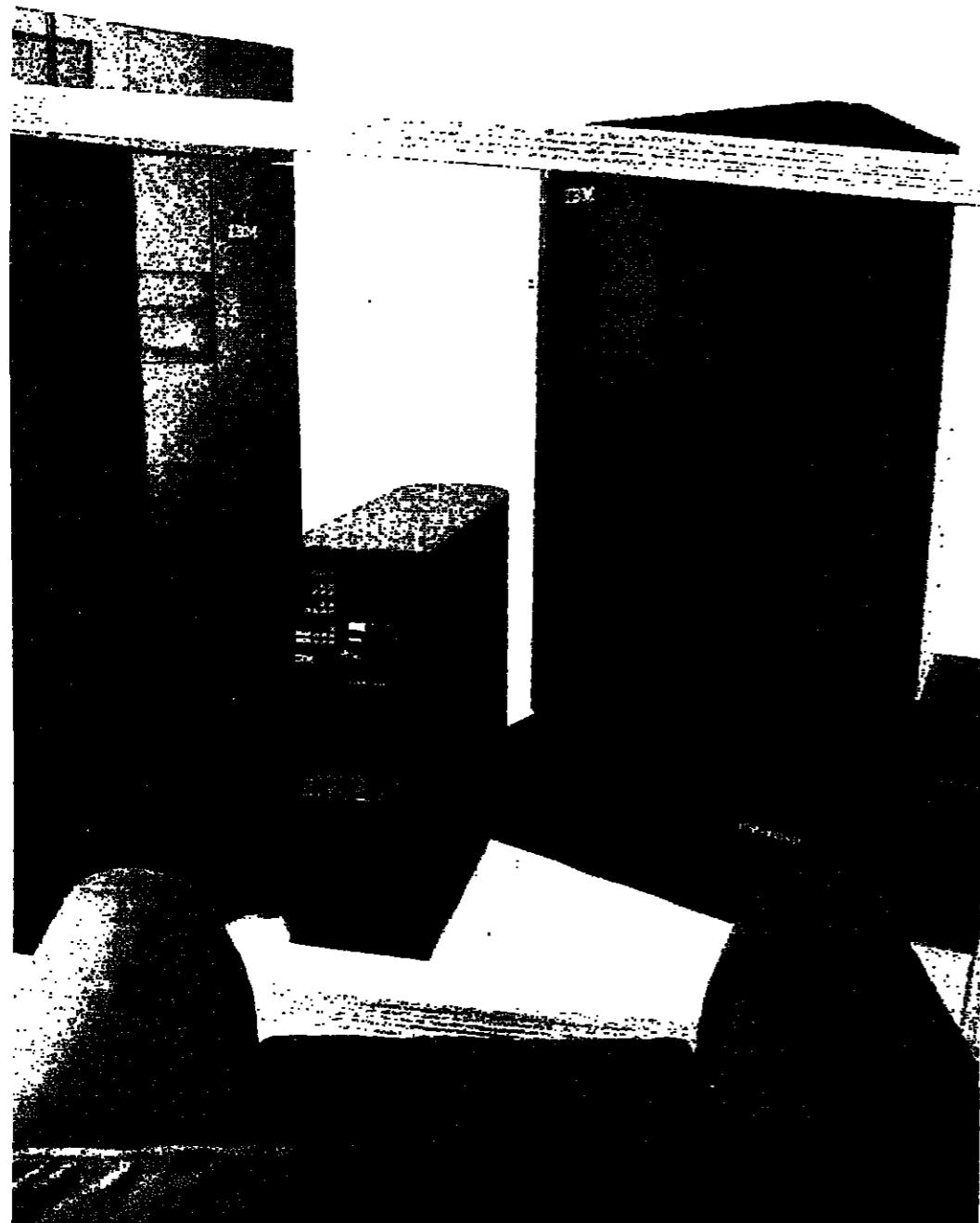
Universities are allowing candidates to earn their master's degrees online. Service industries are enabling customers to track packages from their own home or office PCs. Companies are taking their entire supply chains to the Web.

And on the Web, everything depends on the server. The ability of your customers to find you. The experience they have once they get there. The security of your transactions. The integrity of your data. In an e-business world, you're only as good as your servers.

They seem so anonymous. Working away quietly in the basement of your company's headquarters, down the hall in a windowless room, or stacked in a closet by the lift shaft. Most executives never even see these engines of e-business.

e-business is when you electronically connect everything that is critical to your business. Customers, employees, vendors, suppliers, can all be connected via intranets, extranets or over the Web. People and teams can work closely and more effectively, even if they've never met.

But just as the proliferation of affordable personal computers transformed the desktop, a new generation of fast and powerful servers are transforming the business world.



IBM offers a range of servers for e-business for the smallest to the largest company, including affordable Windows NT, UNIX and mainframe systems. The new IBM eServer 3400 is the latest addition to the range.

fact e-business is about transactions.
Every day, billions of transactions are
conducted on IBM servers.



Servers matter

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What server lets you grow at a moment's notice?

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Whether it's a single server or a combination working in harmony, there is no one solution, anyone who tells you there is, is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. The benefits and strengths of the server solution we offer you will depend on the practices and conventions of your business and the industry you work within.

According to IDC's 'Preparing for I-Commerce: A Study of Internet Server and Storage Opportunities' 633,826 worldwide Internet servers were shipped in 1998. *Based on IDC 2Q '98 worldwide revenue figures. All numbers reported are from industry and customer sources. IBM is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corporation. The e-business logo, Netfinity, AS/400, RS/6000, S/390, Parallel Sysplex, and WebSpheres are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Lotus Domino, Lotus Notes and Domino Intranet Starter Pack are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation.

On the Web, a server that isn't scalable is a business problem.

e-business works



Chelsea's stadium holds around 35,000 people but millions of fans can visit the online Megastore, and buy merchandise securely, thanks to IBM Net.Commerce.



An IBM solution built with Lotus Notes lets Vespa reach millions of customers they wouldn't otherwise be able to reach, creating a 24-hour-a-day showroom.



Yamaha Global Jakebox Technology puts digital music on the Web. IBM technology puts it at your fingertips.

As a company's Web site becomes a primary source of interaction between the company and its customers, scalability and e-business growth becomes a major issue.

Scalability means providing a structure that can grow to support thousands of users at a reasonable cost.

IBM has been tackling this issue for years.

As with built-in reliability and security, IBM servers are designed to be scalable for enormous growth. Growth is what IBM servers are about.

If you want your company to grow, e-business will make it happen.

Massively scalable Web sites

How big e-business will become is anyone's guess. Whatever happens there are massive opportunities and goals that e-business can help you identify and achieve.

A major European mail-order company chose an S/390 to host their Web site because of its superior scalability. The sheer power and size of S/390 allows for virtually unlimited growth.

This member of the server family also provides the high levels of security required by online marketers, banks, brokerages and other commercial institutions and businesses.

The RS/6000 SP server has powered some of the most heavily visited Web sites in history – including the Nagano Olympic Winter Games with 634,716,480 hits over 16 days, and the 1998 Wimbledon Championship Web site, which handled 145,478 hits in a single minute.

The 1998 PGA TOUR Web site accommodated more information-hungry enthusiasts than anyone imagined. Handling more than 200 million page views, it attracted thousands of golf fans. The site, www.pgatour.com with real time scoring, exclusive stores and shopping is solely powered by IBM servers.

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Questions?

What e-business solutions would you like to know more about?

- How to establish a Web site.
- How to sell merchandise or services over the Web more effectively.
- How to make your supply chain more efficient and get products to market faster.
- How to use the Web to reach new markets.
- How to put your core business processes online (such as HR, competitive bidding, etc.).

What do you think you need to help you achieve your e-business goals?

- Strategic consulting. (How can I use e-business to help my business?)
- Technology consulting. (How do I combine new technology with my existing systems in a cost-efficient manner?)
- Expertise on how e-business can help me in my industry.
- Help integrating my networks so they run seamlessly.
- High-volume servers capable of handling millions of hits a day while conducting complex transactions.
- Help developing custom applications, intranets and extranets.
- Advice on security. (How do I protect my most vital systems while getting the right information out to the people who need it?)
- Advice on how e-business can help small businesses grow.

fact e-business is more than buying books on the Web. 60% of online commerce is business-to-business.



IBM Global Services has over 116,000 people in over 160 countries helping thousands of businesses with e-business.

On the Web, you need people with experience.

Connecting the systems you have to the Web requires knowledge of some complex and often disparate technologies. This is where IBM's expertise and long experience in integrating multiple architectures, software and operating systems can work to your advantage.

We have more knowledge of working with a mix of Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers than any other company.

IBM Global Services, in conjunction with our many worldwide Business Partners, can help you assess, plan, design, implement and run your e-business. And IBM Global Financing can help you choose the most effective way to finance your e-business solution, with a payment plan customised to meet your needs.

IBM has helped companies of every size become e-business faster than these organisations ever thought was possible. IBM has helped small to medium-size businesses become e-businesses in a few weeks.

We've helped huge companies become fully-fledged e-businesses in a matter of a few short months.

To find out how our engines of e-business can improve your organisation visit www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk or call Edward Bailey any time between 8.30am and 6pm, Monday – Friday on 0800 400 000.

Our Web site will explain how our family of servers can help you turn your business into an e-business, or help your existing e-business operate more efficiently and more profitably.

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Man of Straw is unhurt after treading on a dummy

DURING DEFENCE Questions George Robertson proudly announced that the British Army had laid their last landmine; all existing stocks had been destroyed, he told the House, and the last five models had been rendered harmless and handed over as macabre trophies to the bodies which had campaigned for their withdrawal. This must have been a touching ceremony, what with its ritual invocations of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the word-pictures of children gambolling through virgin meadows. We should not forget, however, that there are still explosive devices out there, concealed in the most in-

nocuous by-ways, and a little later, as if to remind us of the continuing dangers, the latest victim turned up to tell the House about his accident.

The morning papers had unanimously reported that the Home Secretary had trodden on a judicial landmine over the weekend, in his case a relatively innocuous device which was designed to propel egg into the face of its target at high velocity. Tory members had turned up in large numbers to gloat over the Home Secretary's injury and, if at all possible, to aggravate it. But when he rose to make his statement it slowly became clear that he wasn't even limping. The unusual pallor of

his face was not down to splattered alumina, he explained, but righteous indignation. The device in question had made quite a loud noise, he conceded, but he had not been hurt and, what's more, were he to walk that way again his foot would fall not an ounce less heavily. The charge had been a dummy.

Mr Straw seemed genuinely indignant to have been depicted as an enemy of freedom and quietly defended his actions. He had only acted, he said, out of concern for the Lawrence family (Pavlovian reflex of agreement from both sides), for the fair treatment of the police (concessionary grants from law and

order Tories) and respect for the privileges of the House (sturdy hearings from Labour members and

sneers of derision from the Conservative benches). I think he might sensibly have dispensed with this last point because even though Mr Straw himself strikes me as a by-the-rules kind of chap himself, he is smart enough to know that he belongs to a government which is about as leak-proof as a satsuma bag.

It also seemed unwise of him to harp quite so much on the care and effort he had put into keeping the report secret, since the more he protected his department's integrity the more he exposed its basic competence. Following this line several Tory MPs tried to get him to say just how many people had access to

copies of the leaked report, and whether they would be sacked if they were found out, but at these points Mr Straw briefly forgot the all-important supremacy of Parliament, and declined to answer. One questioner even raised the possibility that a junior minister might have been involved in this heinous breach of trust, at which point the junior ministers grinned ostentatiously to register the absurdity of the notion. I noticed that Paul Boateng smiled with particular vigour, as if the idea struck him as the very acme of hilarity.

Mr Straw was rattled enough, anyway, to get unparliamentary

Wakeham set to hold public hearings

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Royal Commission on House of Lords reform, gave the strongest signal so far that it would seek to take oral evidence in public.

During a two-day Lords debate on the White Paper on the reform, he said his consultation would be as "open and forthcoming" as possible to enable "vigorous public debate". The commission, expected to report by the end of the year, will first meet on 1 March.

Government sources have privately made clear they hoped it would move quickly to analysis and recommendations on the functions, powers and composition of the second chamber in private sessions.

Lord Wakeham's reassurance came as Lord Denham, former Tory chief whip, accused his party of "inertia" over reform. "We are drifting towards the end of our life for the temporary convenience of this administration."

But Lord Wakeham spoke of an "exciting opportunity" to create a chamber which would

LORDS REFORM
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

play a "distinct and significant role..." Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, for the Liberal Democrats, said proposals by Lord Weatherill, chairman of the crossbenchers, to retain 91 hereditary peers in the interim period gave a "substantial and disproportionate" advantage to Tory benches. Lord Rodgers said he did not want to "ridicule" what had been a genuine attempt to achieve consensus but the "situation becomes stranger and stranger" and the proposals were a "dog's breakfast".

Lord Denham, himself a hereditary peer, said of the amendment: "If this rather nebulous threat hanging over us amounts to something less than contempt of parliament, I would be very grateful for somebody to tell me why."

Opening the debate, Baroness Jay, the Lords leader, said: "We do not want to lend credence to the unicameralists,

nor to give ammunition to those who describe peers as predominantly driven by self-interest and out of touch with everyday concerns."

The Lords could have its first elected peers under Liberal Democrat plans to be debated at the party's conference next month, writes Paul Waugh.

It will hear a motion to ensure all the party's nominations for life peerages in an interim Lords will be subject to a secret ballot of senior activists.

In line with Labour and the Tories, the Liberal Democrats allow their leader simply to select their peers, and some activists want the practice to end. The move to make the interim House of Lords more democratic is one of several motions listed in the party's conference agenda, published yesterday.

The conference, which will see Paddy Ashdown deliver his 23rd and last speech as party leader, is certain to be used as a "primary" by potential leadership candidates such as Charles Kennedy and Menzies Campbell.

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Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport learning how to applaud in sign language in Birmingham as he announced £53.7m in grants to help the nation celebrate the Millennium

Tom Pilston

Benefits in kind attacked

LABOUR LEFT-WINGERS yesterday attacked Government proposals to offer asylum seekers benefits in kind instead of cash assistance. They argued that cash benefits were the "cheapest and most humane way" to help such people while they waited for their applications to be considered.

Jeremy Corbyn, the MP for Islington North, said many in the Labour Party felt such removal of benefits, when first introduced by the Tories, was an "act of spite and vengeance against refugees".

But Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, insisted the current

ASYLUM SEEKERS
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

system of support was a "shambles" and radical reform was needed to help those in genuine need. Under the Immigration and Asylum Bill, asylum seekers will be given accommodation and support through vouchers for food and other essentials instead of being able to claim social security benefits.

Opening the Bill's second reading debate, Mr Straw made clear that support would only be made available to those who were destitute or likely to be

come destitute. Cash benefits acted as a draw to "economic migrants", especially from eastern Europe, who had no reasons to make asylum claims, he added.

Amid the heated debate on the radical shake-up of the immigration and asylum system, leaders of all the major political parties have pledged not to descend into displays of racial prejudice. The pledge drawn up by the Commission for Racial Equality, the Refugee Council and the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, also urges all MPs, officials, local councillors and the media to be

careful not to stir up racial tensions.

But during the debate, Diane Abbott, the Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, warned small groups of asylum seekers accommodated outside London could be "sitting targets for racist attacks" as a result of the proposals.

Mr Straw said the legislation had been drafted amid public concern about bogus asylum seekers in Britain and criminal trafficking, a global trade estimated to be worth more than £4 billion a year. It aims to fine lorry drivers carrying illegal immigrants into the UK.

Register to list suspected paedophiles

SUSPECTED AS well as convicted paedophiles would be banned from working with children under a back-bench Bill published yesterday.

The private member's Protection of Children Bill, sponsored by Debra Shipton, MP for Stourbridge, would ban childcare organisations from employing anyone on a national register drawn up by the Government.

The Bill, which is being backed by the Department of Education and Employment, the Home Office and the Department of Health, will also require employers to refer to the register the names of those who have harmed children or put them at risk. It will receive its second reading on Friday and stands a reasonable chance of passing into law.

The measures would enable the Government's proposed Criminal Records Bureau to operate a "one-stop shop" so that concerned childcare organisations can make fast checks.

The Bill aims to tighten up the law following pressure from charities, schools and councils which claim there is no mechanism to report staff who quit their jobs before investigations

into child abuse are concluded. Many paedophiles slip through the net even though serious allegations are made against them by children.

Volunteers as well as employees would be subject to checks for the first time and an independent appeals tribunal would ensure that no innocent individual was placed on the list.

Ms Shipton said: "I have been contacted by many people and organisations who have told me about some shocking incidents that would not have happened if my Bill had been on the statute book. My Bill will close many loopholes. We must go down the avenues that abusers exploit and this is a step towards that goal."

Valerie Howarth, chief executive of the charity Childline, said: "We welcome the unified list of people unsuitable to work with children as a vital step in preventing known abusers continuing to harm children."

Both Menzies and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have also officially backed the Bill.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ulster violence

ALMOST 150 people were victims of paramilitary-style attacks in Ulster in the last eight months of 1998. Northern Ireland security minister Adam Ingram disclosed.

Loyalists were responsible for 90 attacks - 25 shootings and 65 assaults; while Republicans were behind 59 - 19 shootings and 40 assaults.

Troops at ease

BRITISH TROOPS will not go into Kosovo if the peace talks in France do not produce an agreement "unless there is an agreement for them to supervise", George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

Elderly benefit

THE AMOUNT of cash given by the National Lottery Charities Board last year to organisations which represent the elderly increased by nearly £40m over the year, the sports minister Tony Banks revealed.

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Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Lump sum investments, offer to bid prices, per income re-invested from £11.99 to £11.98, + 39.76. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. *Source: The Research Department Ltd © 1994-1998. At 6.15pm, 1441 funds in survey. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

THE HOUSE



Defence jobs

THERE WILL be dire consequences for British and European defence industry jobs unless companies restructure to compete better with their giant United States rivals, the Defence Secretary George Robertson warned yesterday. "Either we rationalise or we won't have any jobs left in this very valuable and very important industry," he said.

Today's agenda
Commons: 2.30pm Questions to Scottish ministers and Lord Chancellor's Department.
■ Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill, second reading.
■ Short debate on future development of Cornish language.
Lords: 2.30pm Debate on Lords reform, last day.

CHILD CARE BILL

BY PAUL WAUGH

into child abuse are concluded. Many paedophiles slip through the net even though serious allegations are made against them by children.

Volunteers as well as employees would be subject to checks for the first time and an independent appeals tribunal would ensure that no innocent individual was placed on the list.

Troops at ease

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Elderly benefit

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16 60,000 wild birds trapped and sent to Malta



Three types of British wild birds which are being trapped for illegal export to the Mediterranean. From left to right, the goldfinch, the greenfinch and the linnet

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY

Environment Correspondent

UP TO 60,000 illegally-caught wild British songbirds have been exported to Malta by one man in one of the biggest wildlife trade rackets ever uncovered RSPCA officers who targeted his activities fear he may have started to affect the level of their wild populations.

So many greenfinches, chaffinches, bullfinches and siskins have been removed from Britain by him that un-

dercover RSPCA officers who targeted his activities fear he may have started to affect the level of their wild populations.

The man, a 26-year-old Maltese who runs a pet and garden centre on the Mediterranean island, is believed to have

amassed a fortune by satisfying the huge demand in Malta for British cage birds. He has been able to sell wild-caught British greenfinches, for example, for up to £40 each.

The man has built up a network of people in Britain who will trap wild finches, and has then been exporting the birds illegally by fitting them with

counterfeit versions of the rings they must wear to show that they were bred in captivity. It is illegal in Britain to take, sell or export a wild bird, but captive-bred birds may be traded.

Over four years he has made dozens of trips to Britain in the winter, when finches flock together to seek food and are easy to catch in large numbers by

netting. The RSPCA believes he may have exported between 50,000 and 60,000 wild birds by air mixed in with consignments of legal, captive-bred birds in an attempt to evade Customs scrutiny.

But the society believes that many thousands of those captured on his behalf – as many as a quarter – have died from

stress in initial captivity or on the journey, and the remainder have been destined to a short life as pets in small cages. "Their lifespan in a small cage in Malta is unlikely to be more than three months, which is why he continually needs more," said an RSPCA source.

The man was tracked and watched as he exported birds

through Gatwick airport and was finally arrested in a disused petshop in Kent, where he was found preparing to ring more than 500 wild-caught finches. The rings were inscribed with the initials BBC, as on the official rings provided for captive-bred birds by the British Bird Council, the official body. The smuggler had succeeded in obtaining them by convincing a ring manufacturer that they were needed for the Balluta Bird Club in Malta.

The man is now back in Malta, having jumped bail.

But RSPCA officers say that the file on him is not closed, although they are reluctant to spell out what further action they may take. They are still investigating his associates in Britain. A spokeswoman for

the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said that illegal trapping of songbirds, particularly finches, was still quite common in Britain.

But British cage bird enthusiasts are quick to condemn the illegal trade, said Greg Meenahan, of the magazine *Cage and Aviary Birds*. "People who keep cage birds are aware that people who trap birds give them a bad name and are very opposed to anything to do with trapping or shooting," he said. "The hobby is seen by some people as cruel so they want to be whiter than white."

There is a strong tradition of keeping cage birds in Malta, but not of breeding them, so British birds, which are very successfully bred in captivity, are highly prized.

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INVESTMENTS

Killers get £1m rebate from prison

BY IAN BURRELL

Home Affairs Correspondent

Whitemoor prison, near March in Cambridgeshire. John Duggan, serving life for murder, and three other prisoners, Glen McPherson, George Daly and Craig Preece, argued that the policy was unlawful.

Four inmates, who earned up to £130-a-week working on day-release jobs, sought a judicial review to challenge the policy of taking £18.25-a-week from the money they earned to pay for their cell and food. The Prison Service was forced to climb down yesterday after its own legal advisors decided that it was unlawful to charge someone for their own imprisonment.

The decision means that thousands of prisoners who have made payments for board and lodging over the last six years will now be able to claim the money back. Many of them will have been released.

The Prison Service has recouped around £26,000-a-month through such deductions and the repayments are likely to cost more than £1m.

Prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are encouraged to take part in "enhanced earning" schemes which enable them to work – usually outside of prison – and earn realistic wages. The programmes are designed to help rehabilitate prisoners into the community.

Michael Howard, the previous home secretary, introduced the deductions in the belief that it was right that inmates who were allowed the privilege of earning wages should make a contribution for their upkeep.

But the policy was challenged by four inmates from

Mark Leech, of Liverpool-solicitors AS Law, who backed the prisoners' claims, said: "Prisoners will now be able to save for their release and be in a much better position to survive financially when they get out."

The Prison Service said that it would now bring into place the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996, placed on the statute book by the last government but never implemented. It will be introduced early in the summer and will enable the Prison Service to lawfully make compulsory deductions.

Fertility patients hit by beds crisis

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

Health Editor

in the South West. Waiting times also vary, with some couples seeing a gynaecologist 2 weeks after being referred while others wait for three years.

Across the country an average of 10.8 cycles of in-vitro fertilisation were provided by the NHS per 100,000 population in 1998, compared with 12.7 cycles in 1997. In more than half of health authorities the waiting time from referral to treatment was more than one year.

The survey, by the College of Health, shows that obtaining treatment is a postcode lottery for the one in seven couples who need it. While health authorities in Scotland provided 21.5 cycles per 100,000 people last year the figure was just 0.3.

National
listed by

By CLARE GUNNELL

Health Editor

in the South West. Waiting

times also vary, with some couples seeing a gynaecologist 2 weeks after being referred while others wait for three years.

Caroline Spelman, Conserva-

tionist MP for Meriden, said:

"The National Health Service

should be a national service.

However, the report shows this

is clearly not the case."

Mrs Spelman, who led a Par-

liamentary adjournment debate on infertility last year,

said: "Most patients are either

forced to seek private treatment

or contribute to some of the cost, placing couples under great financial and emotional strain."

Far left in bid to run rail union

MILITANT LEFT-WINGERS will today mount a challenge for the leadership of the rail industry's biggest union, after their successful campaign to win the top job at the train drivers' union.

Members of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) will receive ballot papers for an election which could usher in a new era of militancy on the rail network and London Underground. Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT, and his deputy, Vernon Hince, face a tough electoral battle with left-wingers.

Mr Knapp is being challenged by Greg Tucker, a far-left train driver based at Waterloo who was expelled from the Labour Party in the early Nineties for his activities as a Lambeth councillor.

In an interview with the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4 yesterday, Mr Tucker indicated that there would be more disruption to services under his leadership. "I think there is a lot of frustration out there on the railways and I think that frustration should be given a lead," he said. Asked if that meant strikes, he said: "One uses the weapon one has to hand."

Mr Hince faces opposition from two left-wingers. His principal opponent is Pat Sikorski, a London Underground driver and senior activist in Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party (SLP). Also standing is Jim Connolly, a railway worker of Glasgow and a former SLP member. There is little doubt that a takeover by the hard left would increase the union's appetite for industrial action rather than negotiation.

Bob Crow, the RMT's current assistant general secretary, is a member of the SLP, and the party can count on the backing of a majority of the union's rail executive.

Although traditional Labour

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Party supporters in the union argue that members at London Underground have legitimate concerns, they also believe current unrest has been fuelled by a regional council which is dominated by the hard left.

At the train drivers' union, Aslef, the general secretary, Lew Adams, was defeated in a surprise poll result last year by Mick Rix of the SLP.

To make sure that the

process is not repeated in the RMT, Mr Knapp's supporters have mounted a vigorous campaign and secured the support of 110 union branches, compared with 20 that back Mr Tucker. The ballot result is due at the end of next month.

In his election manifesto Mr Knapp said that he would continue the campaign to restore public ownership and oppose the privatisation of London Underground. He also promised to undertake a "root-and-branch overhaul" of the union if elected.

Mr Tucker has written that the union should reassess its own political agenda and demand the repeal of anti-union laws to "unstack" the unions. He said yesterday: "Our members are being attacked on a daily basis. The whole way that the privatisation of the railways has taken place has meant that the individual railway operating companies need to keep profits up by driving down our members' wages and conditions."

Asked whether he was a Marxist, Mr Tucker said: "I'm a rail worker and I'm basing my position on my experience as a rail worker."

■ A privatised train company has been ordered to drop its £1 surcharge for telephone ticket sales and to refund affected passengers.

The order to Great Western Trains came from the rail regulator, Chris Bolt, who said that the surcharge breached the company's licence.

The Great Western surcharge was introduced on 1 February and has been criticised by West Country passengers and passenger groups. Mr Bolt said yesterday: "Great Western's surcharge breaches both the spirit and the letter of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement between the railway companies and therefore also breaches Great Western Passenger Trains' licence."

Although traditional Labour

leaders get a rebate in prison

Jimmy Knapp (above) and far-left rival Greg Tucker

Photo: PA

Police officers moonlight as nightclub bouncers

POLICE AND prison officers are moonlighting as bouncers in pubs and nightclubs, prompting fears that they could be corrupted by criminal drugs gangs.

The finding comes in a Home Office study aimed at drawing up a national registration scheme for door supervisors in England and Wales. The study has found police officers working on doors in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester and the Home Counties. A team of police bouncers was found to have been looking for work as security guards at the Glastonbury festival in Somerset and other pop festivals last summer.

A network of prison officers from Merseyside has been working the doors of pubs and

clubs in Liverpool. Another prison officer, based outside London, is being investigated for running a company supplying bouncers while he was on sick leave from the Prison Service.

Chief constables will be concerned about officers being compromised by the drugs gangs which operate in many clubs. They may also have to take part in their official capacity in day-time raids on venues which they work at in the evenings.

The moonlighting was uncovered by Constable Andy Smith, who was commissioned by the Home Office's Police Research Group, to carry out a year-long study of the country's

many prison officers working doors in the North-

west had a shared interest in body-building and anabolic steroids. One prison source said: "The problems began when police were called to a club after a fight and found that all the bouncers involved were prison officers. One prison officer got charged with hitting someone with a chair."

According to PC Smith, the registration of Britain's 100,000 door staff is a haphazard and uneven business. Only half the country is covered by such schemes. Typically, a registration badge will cost around £20 for three years.

Some door staff have to hold up to 11 separate registration badges because of the varying requirements of different local authorities.

National gallery of all 360,000 listed buildings will go online

BY CLARE GARNER

PHOTOGRAPHS OF every one of Britain's 360,000 listed buildings, including sheds, pigsties and lavatories, are to go on to the Internet as part of a multi-million-pound Millennium Festival announced yesterday.

Lottery fund distributors have pooled £100m for local and regional millennium projects across the country throughout next year. The festival is expected to provide the largest programme of celebrations mounted in Britain.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced £5.7m in grants for more than 1,000 year-long schemes, including a radio station called Youth FM, a nationwide £2.5m youth sports tournament and a children's international environment conference.

"There is a celebration for



Stonehenge, goal for the group Menter Preseli who have won £100,000 lottery cash for their millennium journey

everywhere and a celebration for everyone," Mr Smith said at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham. From April, applications will be invited for grants of up to £5,000 each. The listed-building photo-

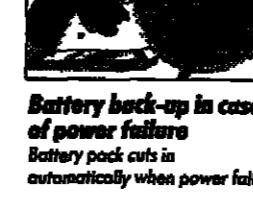
graphic project, costing £3m, will take several years and, as the National Monuments Record's (NMR) Images of England web site, will become the largest free on-line picture library in the world. Volunteers

will be invited to help with the project, costing £3m, will take several years and, as the National Monuments Record's (NMR) Images of England web site, will become the largest free on-line picture library in the world. Volunteers



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Erotica blossoms as publishers turn on to sexy sales figures



A NEW magazine pitched at "sex-loving cosmopolitans" will take its place next month in Britain's burgeoning market for erotica. Its launch sign that the nation's appetite for sex remains unsated.

Pure will be followed by new erotic fiction imprints from two of Britain's leading publishing houses - Virgin and Little, Brown - which will focus on lesbian erotica and fetishism.

Pure will provide design-led erotica principally for the heterosexual male, according to its creative director, Mike Lake-Macmillan, and "not all that tits-out-for-the-boys Loaded, FHM" stuff, which seems to do nothing more than put an actress in a bra and pants".

The magazine, he said, is looking to take advantage of an apparently increasing desire to indulge sexual whims. In November, Olympia, in west London, hosted Erotica '98, the second national fair devoted to what some are seeing as a *fin de siècle* surge in hedonism. "The fair was very successful," he said, "because it presented sexuality to Middle England, and Middle England came out to play."

Erotica is one of the publishing sensations of the decade. *Erotic Review* began life as an occasional and magazine newsletter from the Erotic Print Society with a print-run of 4,000 copies. In the 12 months since Rowan Pelling, a former contributor to *Private Eye* and *GQ*, took over as editor, it has metamorphosed into a monthly selling 30,000 and numbering

Auberon Waugh, design consultant Stephen Bayley and poet Fiona Pitt-Kethley as contributors.

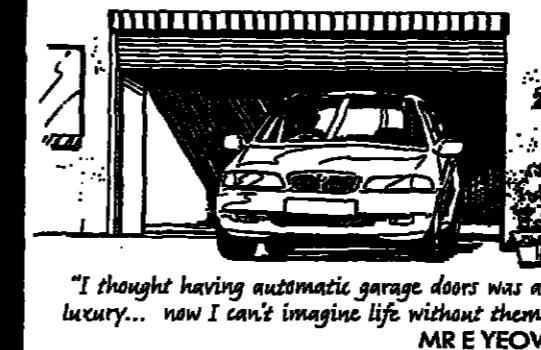
Virgin's success with the male erotic fiction imprint Nexus prompted it in 1993 to launch Black Lace, a list written by women for women that has sold around three million books. In May, Virgin will complete its portfolio with a lesbian imprint called Sapphire.

Little, Brown, whose imprint X Libris has topped half a million in sales, is planning a new list, X Rated, specialising in fetishes.

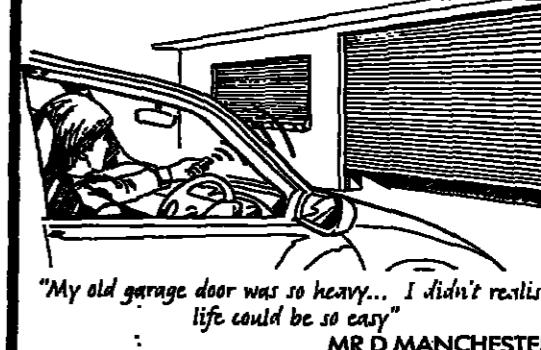
The driving force behind the sector's growth has been young women. X Libris and Black Lace feature dominant females who - after graphic encounters often beginning on page two - end up more powerful and self-aware. "The enlargement of the market is parallel to the growth of cigarettes in the 1860s," said John Sutherland, a professor in modern English at University College London. "It started out as a male preserve but, as with Virginia Slims in America, it has been repackaged once it was found that pornography appeals to women."

Ms Pelling does not believe the growth in erotica and erotic fiction signals a mass awakening in the nation's primal urges, simply a growing acceptance that it is normal - healthy even - to act on those instincts: "The interest in sex has always been there. It's just that now it can be explored in an above-board way."

THE ULTIMATE ALARMED ROLL UP GARAGE DOOR

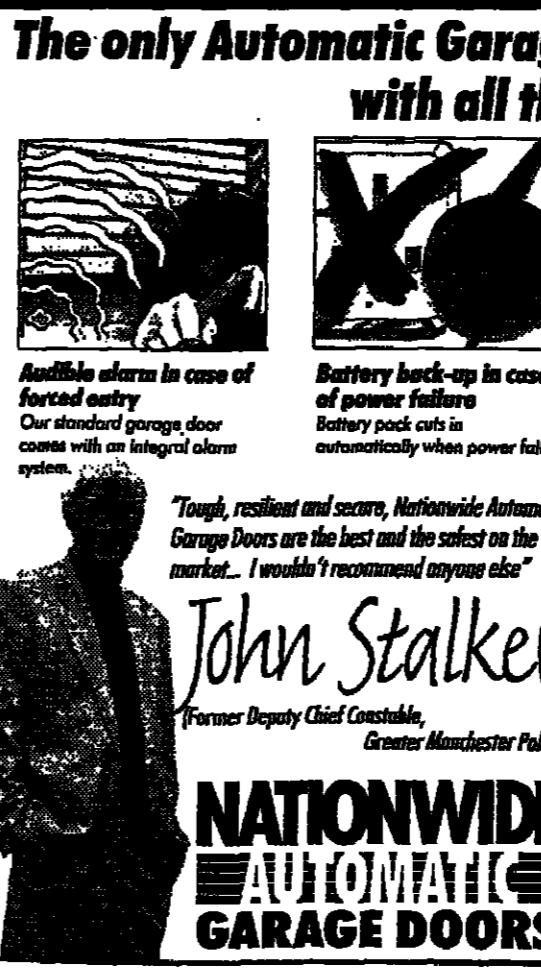


"I thought having automatic garage doors was a luxury... now I can't imagine life without them"



"My old garage door was so heavy... I didn't realize life could be so easy"

MR D MANCHESTER



John Stalker
Former Deputy Chief Constable,
Greater Manchester Police

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Obasanjo's party sweeps elections

THE PARTY of Olusegun Obasanjo, the retired general who is favourite to become Nigeria's first civilian leader for 15 years, swept parliamentary elections at the weekend, it was confirmed yesterday. But his campaign team expressed fears over his standing ahead of the general poll this Saturday.

As final results confirmed that Mr Obasanjo's People's Democratic Party (PDP) last Saturday won a landslide victory in all but the south-west and sparsely populated north-west and north-east, campaigners expressed concern that his presidential challenger, Olu Falae, might make headway this week.

The PDP is widely seen as "the party of the generals" and is reportedly funded by top brass from former military regimes. Mr Falae's Alliance for Democracy/All People's Party, which is rooted in the south-

west, has fewer resources. Commonwealth election monitors said the weekend elections to the House of Representatives and Senate had passed without incident. But European Union observers reported "serious irregularities", particularly in the tense oil-producing areas of the south, including Bayelsa and Port Harcourt, where staffed ballot boxes had been found.

However, the overall im-

pression of Saturday's voting was of a low turn-out, especially by women. Nigeria, ruled by military dictators for all but 10 of its 39 years of independence from Britain, knows only centralisation and local politics.

In such a climate, voters may have found it hard to relate to parliamentary candidates. Also, after local and gubernatorial elections in December and January, many feel weary of the process. Under the transition programme drawn up by General Abdulsalam Abubakar next Saturday's presidential elections will lead to a handover to civilian rule on 29 May.

Isyaku Ibrahim, a PDP official in the capital, Abuja, yesterday for an Obasanjo fund raiser, said the PDP remained confident of victory but was concerned at how eastern Nigeria would vote on Saturday. "If anything, we are slipping at the moment in the east."

"It is now becoming an election which is perceived as the military man versus the non-military man," he said.

All the polls to date have taken place against a background of boundaries drawn by the military which favour the Muslim and Hausa-Fulani-dominated north. Statistically, the north is more populous than the south but its semi-desert nature and travellers' impressions do not bear that out. The presidential elections, in which boundaries are less of a factor, could therefore produce a result which does not reflect trends to date.

General Obasanjo, who yes-

terday staged a rally in Kaduna - a sedate city which is a favoured seat of retired generals - is not expected to win more than 20 per cent of votes in the populous south-west. Kaduna, however, should be a walkover. He will almost certainly dominate the centre and centre-north of the country which is Hausa-Fulani and under strong influence of traditional leaders close to the military.

Neither candidate is popular in the east. Jim Jason, a political commentator from the east, said: "We have a reputation for voting for whoever looks like being the winner."

General Olusegun Obasanjo addresses a crowd in Minna, northern Nigeria, yesterday. The former military leader is standing for president in elections next Saturday

Corinne Dufka/Reuters



Nigeria great

General Olusegun Obasanjo addresses a crowd in Minna, northern Nigeria, yesterday. The former military leader is standing for president in elections next Saturday

Corinne Dufka/Reuters

'Greece fed weapons to Kurd rebels'

IT WAS exactly the ammunition Turkey's government wanted in its war of words with Greece over the capture of the Kurdish rebel Abdullah Ocalan.

A Turkish newspaper, *Hurriyet*, said he had told interrogators Greece supplied his Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) with arms. The claim may embarrass the European Union, which yesterday called on Turkey to give Mr Ocalan a fair trial and to let international observers attend, as Greece is a member of the bloc.

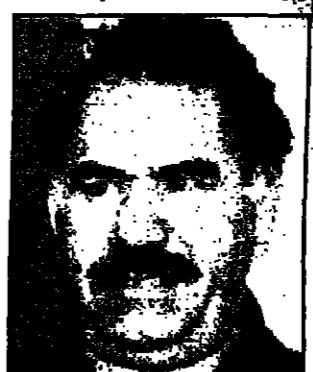
"Greece has supported the PKK for years," the paper quoted Mr Ocalan as saying. "Greece even helped us with weapons and rockets." According to the article he said Greece supplied him with the false Cypriot passport with which he travelled to Kenya and supplied the PKK with training facilities.

The rebel leader, who was snatched from Kenya by Turkish special forces last week, is being interrogated before his trial. Turkey blames him for 37,000 deaths in the PKK's 14-year campaign to win Kurdish autonomy in south-east Turkey.

"Greece should be added to the list of countries that support terrorism and harbour terrorists," the Turkish President, Suleyman Demirel, said, according to Turkey's semi-official Anatolia News Agency. "A country like that can only be described as an outlaw state."

But there were sceptical reactions to the claims, which dovetail with routine Turkish government propaganda about Greece. Interrogations like Mr Ocalan's are supposed to be secret. When his former deputy, Semdin Sakik, was captured and interrogated last year, similar reports emerged claiming he had linked several prominent critics of Turkey's Kurdish policy with the PKK. No prosecutions have been brought in connection with the allegations.

Hurriyet has close links with the Greek government, which is reported to be preparing



Ocalan: Quoted as saying Greece gave PKK arms

statement calling on Turkey to ensure Mr Ocalan receives a fair trial.

■ Belgium threatened sanctions against the Kurdish television station Med-TV, warning it not to transmit more calls inciting violence against Turkey or Turkish institutions abroad, Reuters reports.

The Interior Minister, Luc Van Den Bossche, who summoned Med-TV to his office on Sunday, told Belgian radio yesterday: "Whenever there was trouble in recent months (Med-TV) called for calm; now suddenly they are sending a broadcast into the world calling for violence."

Med-TV transmits from Belgium with a British licence.

IN BRIEF

US bombs Iraqi defence sites

AMERICAN WARPLANES bombed Iraqi military sites yesterday after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern "no-fly" zone, the US military said. Iraq said US warplanes attacked Iraqi defence sites in the north and south, killing one civilian in the south.

Earthquake hits Russia

AN EARTHQUAKE registering 5.5 on the measurement scale struck southern Russia, killing one person and injuring 20 others. The tremor hit on Sunday night, with the epicentre about 40 miles west of Makhachkala, a city on the western coast of the Caspian Sea.

South African crime figures rise

CAR HIJACKING in South Africa, which had dropped slightly, is up again. It rose by 13 per cent - 31.3 hijackings per 100,000 people in 1997 to 35.5 in 1998. Possession of illegal weapons was up nearly 10 per cent. The rise is thought to be due to a downturn in the economy.

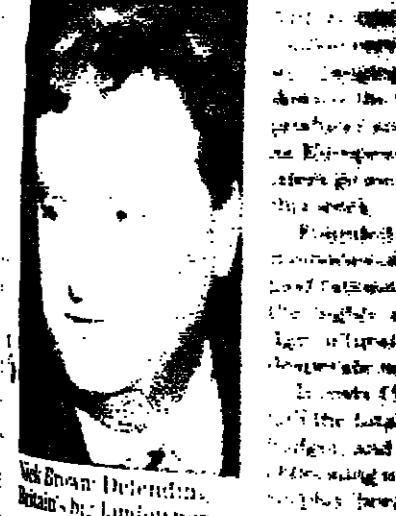
Mauritius riots over singer's death

AROUND 2,000 protesters in Mauritius went on the rampage and ransacked three police stations after a reggae singer, Kaya, who had been arrested for smoking marijuana, died in jail. He was arrested for smoking marijuana at a rally to decriminalise the drug.

Agricultural subs

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farmers
in violent
clashes

Agriculture



Kosovo peace
Albanians

Melting snow

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Agricultural subsidies: Brussels looks like a war zone as the EU attempts to thrash out reform

Army of farmers in violent clashes

TWELVE PEOPLE were arrested and 12 police officers injured in Brussels during violent clashes between protesting farmers and riot police yesterday, despite a massive security operation which threw a cordon of barbed wire around the heart of the Belgian capital.

More than 30,000 farmers, mostly from France, Belgium and Germany, laid siege to the city to protest about European Union agricultural reforms which they say will reduce their incomes. The protests came as farm ministers from the EU's 15 member states gathered to debate radical European Commission plans to cut guaranteed prices for cereals, beef and dairy products by up to 30 per cent to prepare the bloc for its enlargement and a new round of world trade talks.

The marchers, some of whom uprooted trees and buried objects including firecrackers, rocks and cans, were met with tear gas and water cannon by around 5,000 riot police. Although organisers claimed around 50,000 farmers took part in the demonstration, police put the number closer to 30,000.

Even before the tear gas was fired Brussels looked like a war zone, the five-lane highway which runs through its centre blocked off with barbed-wire and lined with riot police

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND
KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

and armoured vehicles. All the time, police helicopters hovered noisily overhead.

The Belgian police took every precaution. The entire EU quarter was sealed off: schools, shops, creches, offices and metro stations were closed, and staff of the European Commission were given the option of taking the day off. Consequently the main Commission building was deserted.

A stone throw's away, the Cinquantenaire park where the protesters gathered was ringed with police and cordoned off with barbed wire. In the biting wind and rain, speeches began as the crowds massed: in the words of one French demonstrator, unmistakable evidence of the *fraternité* of Europe's farmers.

The march began with the French in the vanguard, many dressed in yellow capes, blowing shrill whistles, chanting and spraying firecrackers around like confetti. The banners were out: "Sortez tu nous entrez" (Santer you are burying us) and "Pas de pays, sans les paysans" (No country without the peasants).

Others carried black flags picturing a crossed plough and sword. "Sometimes we have to drop our ploughs and fight,"



A protester is hit by water cannon in Brussels yesterday. The city was under siege as farmers battled with riot police

French hit by a plague of pigs

BY MORT ROSENBLUM
in Aups

THE GOOD news across France is that hunting for sanglier - the beloved wild boar - is terrific. Just about all other news related to the animals ranges from bad to catastrophic.

"They're destroying everything," grumbled Jeannot Roman, a farmer in Provence. "Wheat fields, fences, everything. It's a plague of pigs."

In one year alone, the French authorities have paid \$20m (£12.5m) to indemnify farmers and growers for "sanglier" depredations. From the Luberon to the Riviera, in the southern France, home owners report uninhabited families of boar invading their land. Deep holes like bomb craters mar vegetable patches and flower beds. Electric fences won't keep them out.

Cross-breeding has added to the problem. In Aups, a mountain town north of Saint-Tropez, wild pigs, breaking an age-old balance of nature, are eating up the truffles. Truffle gatherers used domestic pigs to find their treasure, quickly substituting an acorn as a reward before the pig could gobble up the profit. Boar left truffles alone.

When too much boar hunting caused a population fall a decade ago, hunters sent domestic sows into the woods to breed with the wild boar. The numbers shot up, but the hybrids love truffles.

Last year's parched summer, gatherers report, also killed off many plants that feed the boar. The animals were forced to dig deep for truffles, or anything else that they could find.

The National Hunting Office estimates the French boar population at 700,000, nine times the total 25 years ago, despite a kill of 322,000 in 1997 and an even greater number - still not tallied - in 1998.

"They tear up vineyards, gardens, crops, and you can't keep them out," said Yvon Creissac, a vintner near Montpellier 25 miles west of Aups.

He blames hunters for destroying a natural balance. A pure sanglier female had one litter a year of perhaps three piglets, but hybrids can reproduce twice a year with up to 20 babies in all, he said.

Florence Ferte, who hunts stags on horseback and follows the plight of game closely, recently visited friends near Aix-en-Provence and found the luncheon party was increased by six. "Right there at the pool, a mother sanglier trotted up with her five babies following behind," she said. "They acted like they owned the place." (AP)

Agricultural policy is ripped up by the roots



Nick Brown: Defending Britain's big landowners

THE ECONOMIC interests of 8 million very different individuals, ranging from the Queen down to the lowest Greek goat producer are being fought over as European agriculture ministers go into battle in Brussels this week.

Founded at a time when memories of Second World War food rationing were still fresh, the highly wasteful Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is in desperate need of a shake up.

It costs £30bn a year nearly half the total European Union budget, and is responsible for generating millions of tonnes of surplus beef, grain and milk which have to be dumped on

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

world markets at a huge cost to taxpayers, not to mention the higher cost of food in our shops.

Now with big, poor agricultural nations like Poland and the Czech Republic queuing up to join, a huge crisis for the entire system of EU financing is looming. Extending the CAP with its artificially high food prices and lavish "cheque in the post" payments to countries where farming is still at the horse and cart stage would simply bankrupt the Union.

But while every EU government recognises the need to rein in spending, no minister wants to go home on Friday telling his own farmers they have to take the biggest hit.

In Britain's case the Queen's envoy, led by Nick Brown, are negotiating to defend big landowners, such as the Queen and the Prince of Wales, against proposals for an annual ceiling on the amount of direct cash aid any one farmer can receive.

About 4,000 British farms would be hit by proposals to begin limiting subsidies once £100,000 a year has been claimed. A handful of British farms each year cash EU cheques worth around £1.5m.

Apart from the proposed ceiling, big farmers have little to fear from the European Commission's proposals. They would slash prices by 30 per cent but this would be good news for intensive producers capable of competing with Americans and Australians on world export markets.

But the plans are bad news for smallholders, hill farmers, the environment, food quality and the traditional European family farm.

France, the traditional champion of the CAP and its biggest beneficiary, is incensed by what it sees as Germany's betrayal. About 4,000 British farms would be hit by proposals to begin limiting subsidies once £100,000 a year has been claimed. A handful of British farms each year cash EU cheques worth around £1.5m.

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particularly for the French, but is now seen as the only way to mollify a German public fed up with footing Europe's bills.

As the negotiations opened last night, however, Bonn was still clinging to its demand for "co-financing", a move which seems guaranteed to provoke a French veto. With the firecrackers and chants of French farmers ringing in their ears French ministers will have enormous difficulty returning to Paris at the end of this week if they have signed up to the dismantlement of the CAP as we know it. Yet in the new climate of Euroscepticism in Germany, nothing less, it seems, will do.

Coming to a PC screen near you.

Kosovo peace talks falter as ethnic Albanians balk at disarmament

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Clark, Nato's supreme commander in Europe, arrived unexpectedly in Rambouillet, apparently to reassure the Albanians that they would be adequately protected by the alliance even without the KLA, and even if - as seems increasingly possible - peacekeeping force contained a large contingent of Russians, traditionally allies of the Serbs.

Yesterday Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, raised this very option by declaring that Russian troops could join the force if it was authorised by the United Nations and had the approval of Belgrade.

But Nato's line, reiterated at the alliance's Brussels headquarters yesterday, is that the 28,000-strong force must be Nato-led and unencumbered

by any type of "dual key" arrangement which fatally undermined the Western troops supposed to keep the peace in Bosnia before the 1995 accord.

The Serbs, meanwhile, continued their strategy of trying to separate the political and military parts of the deal, and play upon Western divisions over the use of force, growing more obvious as the final negotiating show-down approaches. Speak-

ing before another session with Mrs Albright yesterday, Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian President, said Belgrade might be ready to talk about foreign troops once a political agreement granting autonomy but not independence for Kosovo had been reached.

That would be the ultimate quandary for the West: what to do if Mr Milosevic signed up to the political agreement and put forward suggestions for a peacekeeping force, less directly controlled by Nato? Almost certainly Italy, and perhaps France, would oppose any airstrikes.

As the frantic diplomacy continued in France, it was fighting as usual in the southern Balkans. Yugoslav armour and KLA fighters clashed for more than three hours near Vučitrn, north of Pristina, sending hundreds of civilians fleeing for their lives.

And, in a sign that hostilities may be about to intensify, it was reported in Kosovo that the KLA had chosen Suleiman Selimi, 29, a radical hardliner, as its supreme commander.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

If both Serbs and ethnic Albanians accept the big powers' peace plan

28,000 NATO troops would be deployed in Kosovo, and a new constitution would be introduced amid preparations for elections in nine months. Some sanctions would be lifted on Yugoslavia. Kosovo would receive international aid.

If the Albanians accept but the Serbs do not

THIS WOULD open the way to

Nato air strikes against Yugoslav targets, and guarantee Nato protection for Kosovo.

If the Serbs accept, but the Albanians do not

THE WESTERN NIGHTMARE. The Kosovars would be told they have to face the Yugoslav army alone, with the near certainty of massive bloodshed.

If both the Serbs and the Albanians refuse

RAMBOUILLET WOULD have been a complete failure, and

the West would restart the search for a solution from scratch.

If the Albanians accept, and the Serbs say 'Yes, but...'

THE TRICKEST of all for the West. Suppose Mr Milosevic agrees to the political side, but says he wants UN, not Nato peacekeepers? The West says the package is all-or-nothing. But can we really bomb Belgrade over a dispute about who keeps the peace?

diverting some of the water to polders. Makeshift dykes erected to protect buildings in the ancient university town of Heidelberg were crumbling under the force of the River Neckar. Streets of the wine villages of the Mosel were inundated, the

Saar burst its banks, and river traffic stopped in much of southern Germany.

Weather reports brought news of more heavy rain in Switzerland, where parts of Basel stood under water. More rain, sleet and snow is expected over south-west Germany.

Melting snow brings lethal floods to Germany

By IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

from the melting snow has been cascading into German rivers. The Rhine was yesterday flowing from the Alps at five times its normal February volume, and is expected to reach

the 9-metre mark today at the south German city of Karlsruhe for the first time this century.

Two flood plains which were opened up at the weekend to divert the torrent were already half full. French engineers were hoping to avert the danger by

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a bug's life

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Levi to close 11 US jeans plants
LEVI STRAUSS & CO, the San Francisco jeans giant, is to close 11 of its 22 North American manufacturing plants and lay off about 5,900 staff following poor results.

The company said the closures were part of a series of strategic steps by its American division to improve its competitiveness by moving its manufacturing operations overseas, where labour costs are lower. The move comes a week after Levi, which also owns the Dockers brand of clothing, reported a 13 per cent slump in sales from \$6.9bn to \$6bn last year, largely as a result of weak sales of jeans.

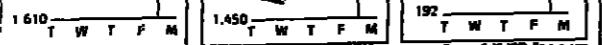
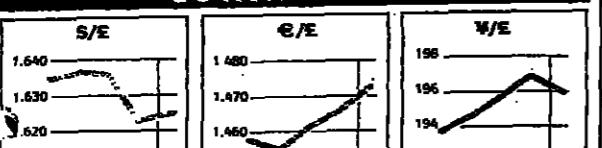
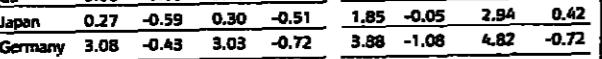
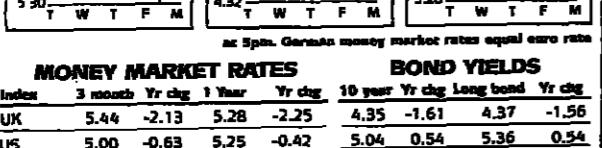
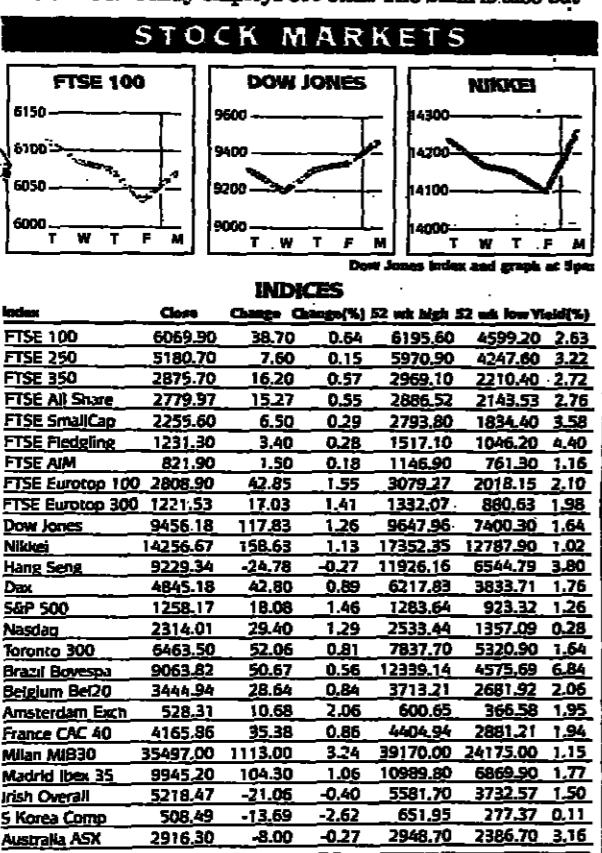
It said shifting manufacturing out of the US and Canada would lead to greater flexibility and lower costs. "These steps are crucial if we are to remain competitive," said John Ermatinger, president of Levi Strauss in the Americas.

Air France shares rise 15% in debut
AROUND 2.5 MILLION investors who bought Air France shares saw them rise 15 per cent in value yesterday as the airline made its market debut on the Paris Bourse after its partial privatisation by the French government.

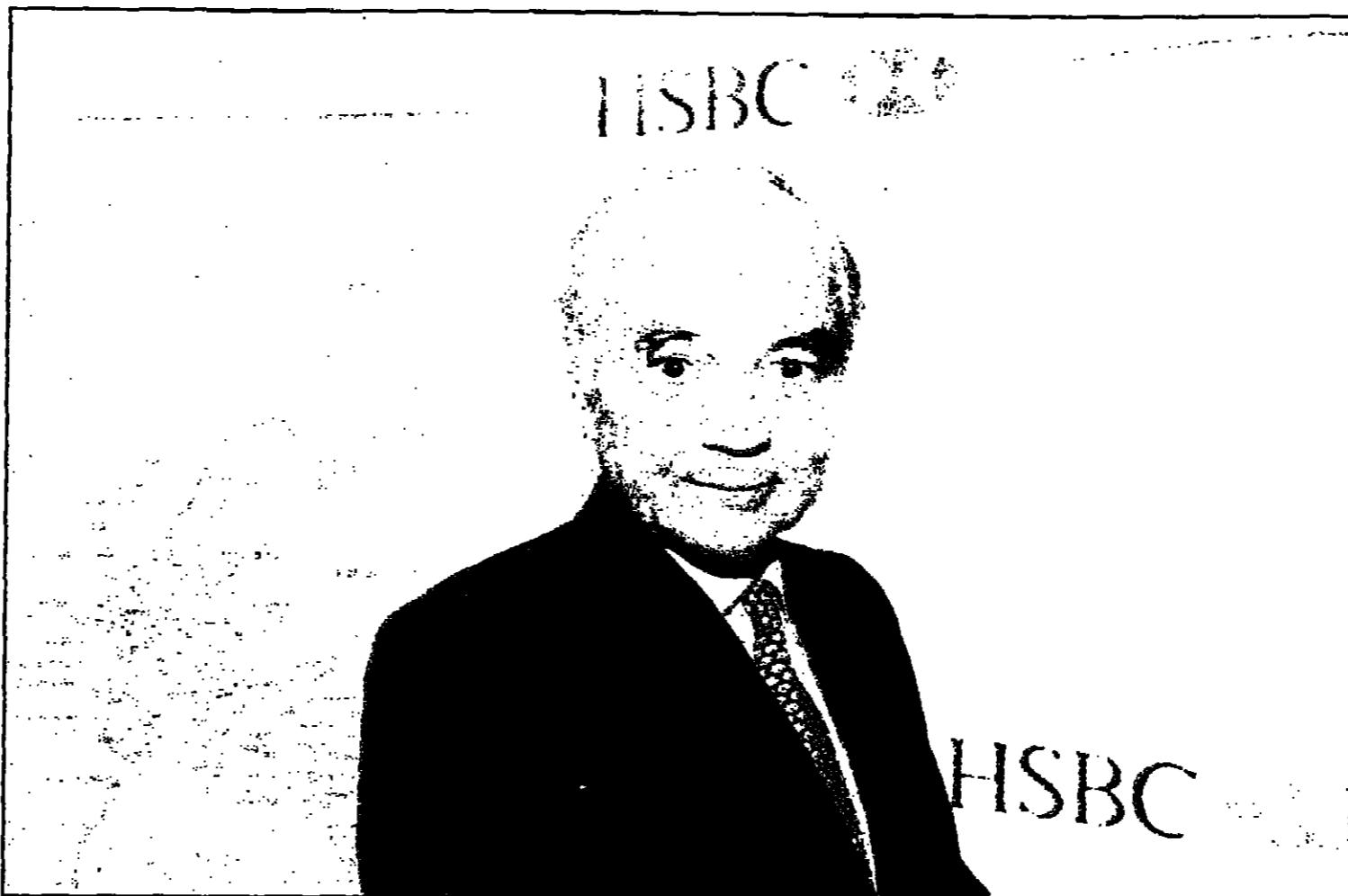
The 20.7 per cent stake offered for sale to investors closed at 16.10 euros, valuing the entire airline at 3.15 billion euros. The French government promised to sell the stake in exchange for European Commission approval for a 20 billion FFr rescue package for the ailing national carrier. Nearly 2.5 million individuals bought shares in float. In Milan, Alitalia shares were suspended before the official opening following renewed talk of a link up with Air France, which would also include Alitalia's partners KLM and Continental. KLM has denied the rumours.

First National to cut London jobs
AROUND 180 jobs are to go at the London offices of First National Bank of Chicago as a result of a decision in the wake of the bank's merger with rival Bank One last year to pull out of the over-the-counter derivatives market.

The bank intends to concentrate on servicing large US corporates or Europeans with substantial US operations. The bank currently employs 500 staff. The bank is also cut-



HSBC profits slump by 19% as Asian crisis hits



John Bond, group chairman of HSBC, yesterday. 'The year ahead promises to be another challenging year'

PROFITS AT HSBC slumped 19 per cent to \$6.57bn last year as worsening problems in Asia forced the world's biggest bank to raise its bad debt provisions by \$1.62bn to \$2.64bn - its highest level ever.

John Bond, the HSBC chairman, said the bank was badly hit in the second half by problems in Malaysia and in Hong Kong, where he is predicting zero growth this year.

He said that while he remains confident of Asia's prospects in the long term, he could not rule out the possibility of "further setbacks" this year.

The bank has also witnessed a sharp deterioration in its loan portfolios in Thailand and Indonesia, although in Korea, where the group yesterday sealed a \$900m deal to buy

BY ANDREW GARTFIELD
Financial Editor

control of Seoul Bank. HSBC believes the worst may now be over.

Mr Bond said: "The year ahead promises to be another challenging year and much will depend on the performance of the US economy and its ability to continue a remarkable record of sustained growth."

In Hong Kong new specific provisions rose by \$68m reflecting the collapse in the property market. For Asia-Pacific generally, provisions were increased by \$1bn to cover exposures to large corporates in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

HSBC announced plans to seek a New York listing in ad-

dition to its current dual listings in London and Hong Kong. The bank is also scrapping its two-tier share structure and replacing the current Hong Kong dollar and sterling shares with one class of US dollar denominated stock. HSBC will, for the first time in its history, be seeking authorisation to buy back its shares.

HSBC yesterday denied suggestions that the decision to go for a US quote signalled that the bank was limbering up for a major American banking deal.

Mr Bond said the New York listing would give the bank access to the largest pool of capital in the world and enhance the liquidity of the bank's shares.

HSBC has suffered considerable share price volatility in the past because of technical shortfalls in Hong Kong dollar

denominated stock.

The move should also increase the proportion of US institutional shareholders on HSBC's register.

Mr Bond said the bank was seeking to learn the lessons of last year's losses by tightening up on credit control procedures and centralising risk control.

The group has set itself a target of doubling total shareholders return within five years. The group will "benchmark" itself against a peer group of nine major international banks including Citigroup, Lloyds-TSB, Deutsche Bank and Chase.

It is also taking a \$180m provision to cover the cost of relocating staff from its 12 sites around the City of London to its new home in Canary Wharf.

But Dalton, the chief executive of Midland Bank, which is

being rebranded as HSBC, said that the tough year in Asia was a strong vindication of HSBC's decision to buy Midland in 1992.

While at group level the rise in bad debt provisions more than wiped out the growth at operating level, in the UK, Midland reported a 7 per cent rise

to £1.45bn.

That was despite a \$60m provision to cover the impact of the pensions review and a \$27m rise in bad and doubtful debts. With these and other one-offs stripped out underlying profits were up 22 per cent, Mr Dalton said.

Midland contributed 38 per cent of profits, up from 31 per cent last year taking over from Hong Kong Bank for the first time as the largest single profit.

Its generator within the group.

EC tells Mobil to quit BP deal

THE EUROPEAN Commission will order Mobil to sell its share of a joint petrol-retailing venture with BP Amoco in return for approval of its \$65bn merger with the rival US oil giant Exxon. The 30 per cent stake is worth an estimated \$2bn.

The decision by Brussels is likely to play into the hands of BP Amoco which would dearlly like full control of the joint venture.

It was widely expected that Exxon-Mobil would be forced to dispose of its share in the joint venture following last year's merger announcement.

The BP-Mobil joint venture has an estimated 11 per cent of the European petrol market. With Exxon, the two groupings would control 20 per cent of the market, giving rise to a situation where competition could be compromised.

EC officials are thought to have been concerned about the 80 per cent share of the German natural gas market that Exxon-Mobil would command if the deal were allowed to go

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

throughout disposals. The BP-Mobil joint venture, formed in 1996, operates 8,900 service stations and has 225,000 barrels a day of refining capacity. BP controls 70 per cent of the petrol-retailing part of the venture and Mobil has a 51 per cent share of its much smaller lubricants operations.

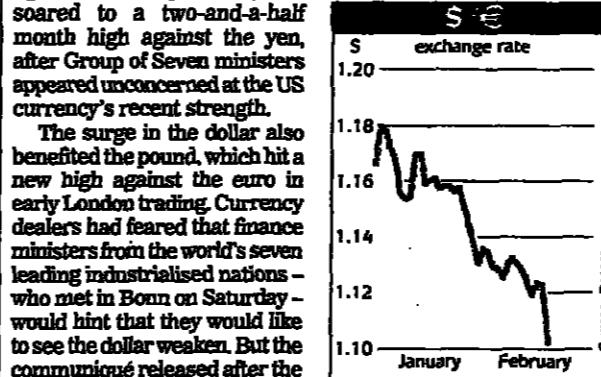
BP contributed \$4.4bn of assets to the venture and Mobil put in \$1.6bn, valuing the business at \$5bn. The profitability of the joint venture has improved, increasing its value.

Although BP Amoco does not have any first right of refusal to buy out Mobil's stake, analysts question how many other bidders would be interested in paying \$2bn for a business which was 70 per cent owned by BP Amoco.

But Mobil insiders insist it will not be forced to sell its stake on the cheap, indicating that there will be interest from other parties.

Confident G7 pushes dollar to record high

BY LEA PATERSON



THE DOLLAR hit a record high against the euro yesterday and soared to a two-and-a-half-month high against the yen, after Group of Seven ministers appeared unconcerned at the US currency's recent strength.

The surge in the dollar also benefited the pound, which hit a new high against the euro in early London trading. Currency dealers had feared that finance ministers from the world's seven leading industrialised nations - who met in Bonn on Saturday - would hint that they would like to see the dollar weaken. But the communiqué released after the summit reaffirmed current exchange rate policy, namely to "promote exchange rates among major currencies that are in line with economic fundamentals".

Paul Meggyesi, currency analyst at Deutsche Bank, said: "The perception is that the G7 is happy to see a stronger dollar."

The dollar was also boosted by speculation that Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, could hint at higher interest rates in his bi-annual

Humphrey Hawkins testimony, which begins today.

The US currency hit 122.53 yen, a two-and-a-half-month high, before falling back to 121.44 amid late trade profit-taking.

Comments from Eisuke Sakakibara, the Japanese finance official known as "Mr Yen" for his impact on currency markets, also helped push the dollar lower. Mr Sakakibara said

he yen could rebound later this year. The dollar reached a record high against the euro, hitting \$1.096 in morning trading in London. The euro, which has been undermined by persistent concerns about European growth, has now fallen by more than 6 per cent against the dollar since the start of the year.

The strength in the dollar also benefited the pound. Sterling closed at 57.98 pence to the euro, just off its day's highs. But analysts said the pound's strength was unlikely to be sustainable, given the weak short-term outlook for the UK.

Two new studies out yesterday suggested the UK economic slowdown could soon be past its worst. The NTC Research leading indicator of economic activity registered a small increase for the fourth successive month, suggesting that growth will start to recover by the end of the year.

The Credit Card Research Group also said credit card expenditure was up 9.5bn last month, 13 per cent up on January 1998.

buyer because it had been hired to carry out the float and not to sell the bookmaker. Warburg declined to comment.

Different action was taken by Dreder Kleinwort Benson in the float of the supermarket chain Somerfield, in August 1996. The broker was twice forced to cut the issue price due to weak institutional demand.

Then Kleinwort Benson approached other potential buyers such as Tesco and Sainsbury to see if a higher price could be achieved.

In that case, no other bids were forthcoming, which demonstrated that the issue

News Analysis: 'This is not a David and Goliath battle. It is not as uneven as it seems'

Investors cool on Olivetti's daring bid to take over Telecom Italia

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

OLIVETTI MAY have to raise its offer for Telecom Italia after its audacious 53bn Euro (23bn) hostile bid for the former Italian state telecom operator suffered a lukewarm reception from investors yesterday.

At the end of the first day of trading since Olivetti first announced its bid on Saturday, shares in Telecom Italia were up 9 per cent at 9.25 Euros - just short of Olivetti's offer, pitched at 10 Euros per share.

Unease at Olivetti's huge task of attempting to take over a company worth more than five times its size left shares in the former typewriter and computer maker down almost 7 per cent at 3 Euros.

"This is a cheap bid and Olivetti will have to raise it if they have any hope of getting their hands on Telecom," said Paolo Perrella, an analyst at ABN Amro. "A bid of between 12 and 13 euros would be more acceptable to shareholders."

Investors also expressed doubts about the structure of Olivetti's offer. Although the company is proposing to sell its existing telecom operations to Mannesmann, the German giant, for approximately 7bn Euros to help fund the bid it will still have to take on a mountain of debt. Olivetti plans to borrow 20bn Euros from a consortium of banks while issuing bonds worth a further 13bn Euros.

Telecom has termed the bid "void" and asked the stock market regulator to rule it out as invalid.

But stock market investors will not be the only ones who have their say on Olivetti's move, which is one of the largest hostile bids in Europe. In the end, the Italian government, and the law courts will help decide the fate of the for-



Protestors stage a demonstration outside an Olivetti factory yesterday

mer monopoly. From Olivetti's perspective, the bid is a wake-up call to a bureaucratic giant that has not yet shaken off its state-owned culture. Since its privatisation in September 1997, the group has been riven by boardroom strife, climaxing in the departure of chairman Gian Mario Rossignolo last year after sensitive forecasts were leaked to the stock market. Then a series of high-profile alliances, including links with AT&T and Cable & Wireless, fell apart.

Advisers to the company point out that the government still appoints three of Telecom's directors even with a shareholding reduced to 3.4 per cent. Another group of founding shareholders, which include the Agnelli family of industrialists, also still have an influence on the company which is disproportionate to their 6.9 per cent stake.

The same accusation can be levelled at Olivetti. Roberto Colaninno, the former accountant who was brought in to rescue the company from ruin in 1996, gets the credit for mas-

terminding deals which allowed Olivetti to pull out of the personal computer industry, find partners for its telecoms businesses, and generally restore its financial health.

At the same time Mr Colaninno also put together a

entrepreneurs from Northern Italy who clubbed together in a consortium to buy a 13 per cent stake in Olivetti. It was only once Mr Colaninno had installed a supportive major shareholder that he was able to contemplate launching the bid for Telecom. Observers point

out that Olivetti has the support of Mediobanca, the secretive Milanese investment bank, for its bid. "They are trying to portray this as a David versus Goliath battle but it's not as uneven as it seems," one analyst said yesterday.

In the absence of being rescued by a white knight, Telecom also appears to have the sympathy of the Italian government. Although its shareholding in the company is small the government still has a golden share in Telecom which will allow it to

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Warburg rides into a spot of poor form

THE COLLAPSE of the William Hill flotation is said in the City to have done the reputation of Guy Hands and his employer, Nomura, no good — though it is hard to see what can be wrong with selling out to venture capitalists for more than could have been achieved through a share listing.

But there is another investment bank whose image has also been left badly tarnished by the affair: Warburg Dillon Read, which acted as Nomura's adviser, is said to be hopping mad that its client pulled a financial buyer out of the hat just as it thought it had got the flotation safely away by cutting the offer price from 175p to 135p.

It is easy to see why relations between Finsbury Avenue and St Martin's Le Grand might be strained. Warburg has just kissed goodbye to the best part of 27m in fees while Nomura would have been 245m worse off if it had gone ahead and floated William Hill at the offer price of 135p secured by Warburg.

The recriminations, needless to say, are flowing nicely. But on this occasion, it looks like Warburg which is mainly in the wrong. The defence



OUTLOOK

from the Warburgs camp is that its letter of engagement required it to advise on a flotation of the business, not a trade sale or any other kind of auction.

The first, evidently, that it knew of Cinven's preparedness to pay the equivalent of 150p a share was minutes before William Hill actually changed hands on Saturday afternoon. To make matters worse, the venture capitalists had indicated their interest in buying the business at a higher price the previous Thursday night, after the offer price had been fixed. This merely begs the

question as to why Warburgs was not in receipt of the same facts. It says it was not told by its client. But did it not have a duty to its client to test the market to establish whether a better deal was on offer?

This is what Kleinwort Benson did when the flotation of the supermarket chain Somerfield had to be scaled back in price, not once but twice. As it happens none of the trade buyers contacted were interested.

So why did Warburgs fail to undertake such an exercise? Was the smell of the fees too much to resist? Or perhaps Warburgs was merely doing the decent thing by the army of private investors who had piled in for four times the number of shares initially allocated to them?

Fund managers

IN THEORY, there shouldn't be any surprises in the Budget since it was all meant to have been curtain raised in the Pre-Budget statement last November. In practice, the Budget wouldn't be the Budget without some rabbits to pull out of the hat, so the

traditional season of pre-Budget leaks for which read guess work is already well underway. Without the good ship Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's former press secretary, to help out, the press is even more at sea than ever.

Strangely, there is a part of the pre-Budget statement that hasn't yet been recycled as today's exclusive. This is the part that deals with the relationship between institutional investors and their clients. The Chancellor believes that the root of Britain's poor productivity problem lies with its long history of underinvestment. This in turn may be partly caused by City short-termism, Mr Brown believes.

No Labour Chancellor these days would be naive enough to think he could force the City not to be short termist, but Mr Brown does believe much can be achieved by obliging fund managers and pension fund trustees to set out publicly their objectives, how they assess investment performance, and the basis on which key staff are remunerated. On remuneration, the idea would be to

establish whether indeed there is an inbuilt incentive in the way fund managers are paid to short term performance at the expense of long term.

All these ideas have plenty to commend them. Anything that can make the process of how our pensions and savings are invested on our behalf by others more transparent must by definition be a good thing. Quite how to achieve this, or whether it would have the desired effect, are rather different questions. The Chancellor would prefer the industry to put its own house in order, and he will be urging fund managers and pension fund trustees to set up something to the Hampel committee on corporate governance and executive pay. If they refuse, there's always the big stick of legislation to wave at them.

However, this is difficult territory. It is not clear for instance, that forcing pension funds to disclose that they do not invest in business start-ups will much improve the situation while expected returns from British start-ups are so lamentably poor. Nor is it easy to quarrel with the

three year investment horizon most pension funds apply to the management of their money. Pension fund clients cannot reasonably be blamed for wanting to change their investment manager if after three years he is still underperforming his peers. To allow more grace might be to encourage continuing underperformance. As can be seen, these are complex issues, and they are not likely to be properly addressed by over-hasty action.

Cable & Wireless

IT IS NOT quite true to say that in the space of two years Graham Wallace has gone from running a Happy Easter on the A1 to commanding one of the biggest companies in the Footsie. But it is not that far from the mark. His meteoric rise from chief executive of Granada's restaurant division that's, er, Little Chef to chief executive of Cable & Wireless, shows that nice guys do not always come second.

Now that he has reached the top of the greasy telegraph pole, Mr

Wallace seems intent on making his employers recognise the value of his abilities by sticking out for the kind of pay package enjoyed by his more carnivorous predecessor, Dick Brown.

His track record at Cable & Wireless Communications entitles Mr Wallace to start with some credits in the bank. In his two years at the helm, its market capitalisation has more than doubled. Furthermore, however much he asks for, it will doubtless be a fraction of the sum the Americans interviewed for the job by the C&W chairman Sir Ralph Robins would have demanded. But as with any internal appointment, particularly one as big as this, there is always the nagging question of whether C&W has settled for second best. If the job is so good, why could Sir Ralph not appoint a successor from outside?

So Mr Wallace will have to deliver a lot. His motto for now is steady as she goes. But if he wants to achieve the same feat with the C&W share price as he did at CWC, can he resist the temptation of the mega-merger?



Graham Wallace outside the Cable & Wireless offices in London yesterday: the new chief executive said he would 'be sticking out for a competitive package' Tom Craig

C&W chief holds out for US-style package

GRAHAM WALLACE, who took over yesterday as the new chief executive of Cable & Wireless, is holding out for an American-style pay package similar to the one earned by his predecessor, Dick Brown.

Mr Wallace, formerly chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, said that he had not yet finalised his terms and conditions with the C&W chairman Sir Ralph Robins. "I will be sticking out for a competitive package. You can make what you like of that," he added.

The promotion to the top job at C&W, the majority shareholder in CWC with a 53 per cent stake, could see him double his salary. Before joining CWC two years ago he was chief executive of Granada's services and restaurants division.

Mr Brown, who quit C&W in December to return to the US as chairman and chief executive of the computer giant EDS,

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

earned £1.16m last year. He also received C&W shares worth £600,000 under the company's long-term incentive plan and would have received additional deferred bonuses worth £1.57m had he stayed with the group until April 2001.

Mr Wallace earned £567,834 last year as chief executive of CWC, including a bonus of £165,000. He also received 35,132 shares under the company's long-term incentive scheme, currently worth just under £248,000.

Mr Wallace said yesterday that he intended to stick broadly to the strategy set out by his predecessor but that under his leadership C&W would accelerate its investment in Internet and data traffic. Last year C&W bought the transatlantic Internet business of MCI and has since

acquired Net service providers in Germany and Hong Kong. Mr Wallace said the next 12 months was likely to see similar deals. C&W also intended to coordinate its global Internet and data activities more closely.

He said there would be more investment in the US but C&W was not actively looking for a mega-merger partner across the Atlantic, nor was it interested in entering the auction for Telecom Italia.

Mr Wallace added that further consolidation was likely in the cable industry and that there would be "some logic" to CWC acquiring Telewest.

Commenting on the repeated speculation that C&W would buy out Media One of the US, its 50 per cent partner in the mobile-telephone venture, One2One, he said C&W had several options. It was not "imperative" to take 100 per cent control.

Outlook, this page

Panel dismisses GUS complaints against Argos

THE TAKEOVER PANEL yesterday unanimously dismissed the remaining complaints registered by Great Universal Stores regarding claims made by the former Argos team during its successful £1.9bn bid for Argos last year.

The move follows a similar ruling last month under which the panel universally dismissed a GUS appeal against certain procedural rulings of its executive. It means Lord Wolfson, the GUS chairman, is unlikely to take the issue any further. However, he is currently on holiday and was not available for comment yesterday.

There were three outstanding complaints made by GUS. It was unhappy about claims made by the former Argos team on its plans for a home delivery service and a comparison of trading in its fledgling Dutch operations with those in Ireland. It was also unhappy about a success fee payable by Argos to Schroders, its financial adviser, in the event of a successful rejection of a bid.

The panel dismissed all GUS

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

complaints unanimously. However, it has instructed its executive to consider whether an agreement to pay a success fee should be disclosed in the bid process. As is its usual practice the panel has instructed the executive to prepare a position paper on the issue. GUS said it welcomed the review but declined to say how much it had spent on fighting the case.

Lord Wolfson has previously said he wanted the panel to "show the red card" to the former Argos directors, led by Stuart Rose who is now chief executive of Booker, the troubled cash and carry chain. Lord Wolfson had also threatened to take legal action against the Argos team, including its advisers, and take the matter to the DTI and the House of Lords.

GUS has denied that it was fighting the battle because it believed in retrospect that it overpaid for Argos when it increased its cash offer from £1.6bn to £1.9bn.

A JOINT VENTURE between the contractors Balfour Beatty and Tarmac and the French engineer Alstom yesterday won a £200m deal to renew overhead cables on the West Coast Main Line, writes Francesco Guerrera.

The work is part of a £2.2bn modernisation programme by Railtrack to slash journey times on the London-Glasgow route and end the misery of millions of travellers.

The line, which is operated by Richard Branson's Virgin Trains, has got one of the worst punctuality records in the country, with around one in five trains arriving late.

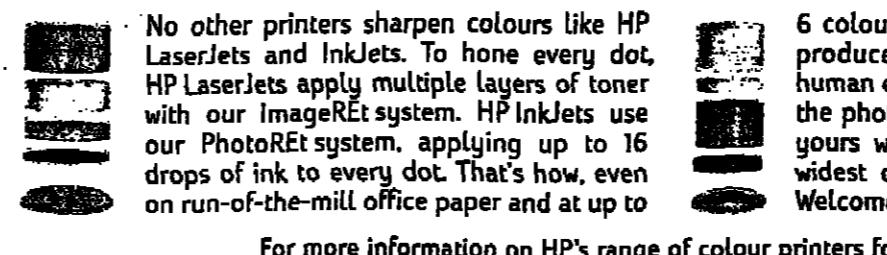
The three companies will replace and strengthen the overhead cables to enable trains to travel on the line at up to 140 miles an hour.

The work, which is set to be completed in 2005, will enable passengers to travel between London and Glasgow in just under four hours instead of the five hours and twenty minutes taken by trains at present.

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6 colour pages a minute, our printers can produce virtually every shade that the human eye can see. So the image you get is the photo-quality image you want. And it's yours when you take your pick from the widest choice of business colour printers. Welcome to the cutting edge of technology.

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Prescott threat shunts Railtrack into sidings

RAILTRACK WAS shunted into the sidings as the stock market fretted about this week's transport summit when Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott is expected to try and make life difficult for the privatised rail industry.

The shares reversed 2p to 1,432p although some other transport stocks edged ahead.

The rail group is going through a distinctly unhappy patch. It is still feeling the strain from last week's ambitious £400m bond issue and has also had to contend with regulatory hints of a profits cap, which could wipe £100m from its figures. In the current tender atmosphere the market is highly sensitive to any possibility of more restrictions being aired.

Mr Prescott is expected to attempt to generate some favourable headlines by lashing the industry and Railtrack cannot hope to escape the strictures.

Although the summit is said to be aimed at trying to move the rail industry forward, rather than dwelling on the hideous past, it is widely believed the privatised companies will eventually face further restraints which could undermine their appeal to investors.

Last year Railtrack was riding at a 1,687p peak. The shares were 380p just after their 1996 flotation.

The rest of the market experienced a largely lethargic session with takeover speculation preventing it from sinking into a self-imposed stupor.

Although by past standards share turnover was strong, it fell below recent levels which provided traders with their busiest ever run.

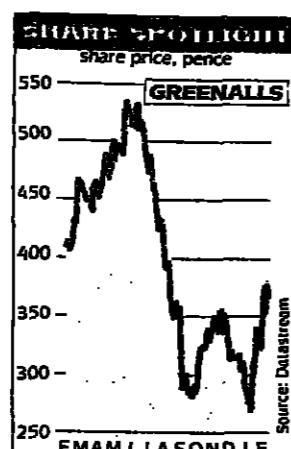
Footsie, encouraged by the New York, ended 38.7 points higher at 6,669.9. At one time it was off 36.4. Supporting shares moved ahead.

Rank, the leisure group, was one caught up in bid speculation. More stories of a break-up strike left the shares

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



12.25p higher at 235p.

Engineer Weir, which rejected bid approach, gained 10.5p to 365p on talk of a US hit and Williams, the security group, was at one time 12.5p higher at 370p on reports of trans-Atlantic interest. The shares ended 2.75p lower at 355.5p with a positive Australian visit seemingly making little impression.

Bornby, the toys group, rose 12.5p to 245p on rumoured bid interest and Queens Moat Houses, the hotel chain, added 2.25p to 24.25p on suggestions of a break-off from a venture capitalist.

Retailer Laura Ashley gained 1.25p to 19.5p on reports that its Malaysian shareholders intended to take it private. Fortnum & Mason, the Piccadilly store controlled by the Weston family of Associated British Foods fame, was the day's outstanding performer, surging 17p per cent to 432p. The shares are an exceedingly narrow market and the excitement was in fact an illusion as a Friday miscue was corrected.

BT gave up 21p to 1,051.5p, only to worry it might intervene in the Olivetti bid for Telecom Italia. Cable & Wireless, little changed at 815.5p, could also be tempted into the fray.

Unilever gained 42p to 625.5p on suggestions that its results could be accompanied by details of an up to £2bn share buyback. Ladbrokes gained 7.25p to 270.25p on the William Hill fiasco.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
BFR (F)	15.35m (13.36m)	2.07m (1.93m)	0.29 (0.79)	2.3p (-)	20.04.99	15.03.99
Community Hospitals Group (F)	54.45m (33.23m)	7.11m (0.05m)	13.7p (1.19p)	4.5p (-)	07.05.99	08.03.99
Hotpoint Group (F)	- (-)	18.52m (10.49m)	0.59 (0.19)	1.5p (-)	20.02.99	09.03.99
HSBC Holdings (F)	- (-)	5.75m (5.12m)	1.01 (-)	0.50p (0.05p)	20.04.99	04.02.99
Mitsubishi Bank (HSBC Unit) (F)	- (-)	1,522.1m (1,544.6)	1.05m (-)	- (-)	-	-
Systems International Group (F)	8.67m (-)	1.05m (-)	2.25p (-)	0.10 (-)	-	01.03.99
Ulster Television (F)	37.16m (34.78m)	12.48m (8.27m)	16.09p (1.09p)	6.50p (5.70p)	26.04.99	01.03.99
Ultra Electronics Holdings (F)	158.65m (143.35m)	21.08m (18.09m)	22.5 (2.3p)	8.1p (7.2p)	28.04.99	22.03.99
Zetelcommunications (F)	24.2m (24.37m)	8.03m (7.98m)	15.8p (5.79p)	7.2p (5.79p)	23.04.99	22.03.99
(F) - Final (I) - interim						

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor	Open interest
Long Gilt	Mar-99	117.57	117.80	117.03	24,286.00
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	108.61	108.72	108.50	63.00
German Bund	Mar-99	111.72	111.72	111.50	1.00
Italian Bond	Mar-99	113.88	113.90	113.47	7,323.00
Japan Govt Bd	Mar-99	132.37	132.38	132.20	23,770.00
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	94.67	94.68	94.66	1361.40
Jun-99	94.95	94.96	94.95	1241.80	157,628.00
3 Mth Eurobnd	Mar-99	95.98	95.99	95.97	187,900.00
Apr-99	97.04	97.04	97.04	154,651.00	145,000.00
Jun-99	97.11	97.11	97.10	19,022.00	138,010.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-99	99.64	99.65	99.65	7,225.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Mar-99	99.65	99.66	99.65	8,693.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-99	98.57	98.58	98.56	30,611.00
3 Mth Euro Libor	Mar-99	96.98	96.98	96.97	408.00
Apr-99	97.04	97.04	97.04	107,148.00	107,148.00
Jun-99	97.11	97.11	97.10	626.00	107,148.00
FTE 100	Mar-99	607.90	612.00	598.00	22,577.00
				168,550.00	

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price	6069.90	Call Imp Vol Put Imp Vol	Mar	Put	Avg Call	Put	Put	Put	Put	Put	Put
5000	81.6	2.15	0.05	311	219	392	294	292	292	292	63.00
10000	13.1	5.55	1.05	185	156	280	240	310	310	310	12.00
100000	8.5	105	14	154	177	249	261	329	327	327	10.50
1000000	6.5	155	17	129	200	218	282	297	346	346	10.50

ENERGY AT 5.30PM

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor	Open interest
Long Gilt	Mar-99	117.57	117.80	117.03	24,286.00
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FTE 100	Mar-99	607.90	612.00	598.00	22,577.00
				168,550.00	

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1,6235	1.0000	Oman	0.6251	0.6162
Australia	1.1596	1.1574	Pakistan	1.5630	1.5631
Austria	1.5375	2.5358	Philippines	1.7235	1.7235
Azerbaijan	20.260	20.252	12.477	12.478	13,788.00
Bahrain	59.394	59.284	55.063	55.063	55,063.00
Bangladesh	2.4123	2.4123	1.875	1.875	1.875.00
Barbados	1.4723	1.7920	1.7920	1.7920	1.7920.00
Belarus	1.7741	1.7741	1.7741	1.7741	1.7741.00
Bolivia	9.5741	8.7378	8.7378	8.7378	8.7378.00
Bulgaria	2.9140	2.8743	2.8743	2.8743	2.8743.00
Burma	1.7860	1.7790	1.7656	1.7656	1.7656.00
Burkina Faso	10.0780	10.5883	10.3211	10.2078	10.2078.00
Burma	24.98	24.52	24.51	24.50	24.50.00
Burma	13.				

Golf: New World
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SPORT

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Golf: New World Matchplay Championship holds no fears for South African who thrives on head-to-head battles

Passionate Els targets Tiger

BY ANDY FARRELL

FOR A man who commands presidential attention for doing something as inconsequential in the grand scheme of things as winning a golf tournament, Ernie Els appreciates the simple things in life. After his wedding to his long-time girlfriend, Liezl, on 31 December, the honeymoon was far from the luxurious affair you might expect of a top sporting celebrity.

"We were roughing it," Els said of his trip to the rugged western coast of South Africa. "There was no electricity. We used gas lamps and candles and slept under canvas. Water for the toilet was brought from the sea. We are so spoilt, spending our time in five-star hotels. I didn't shave for days. It was great."

Getting back to nature did Els no harm at all. He won his first tournament of the year, the South African PGA, and was immediately handed a mobile phone. The voice on the other end of the line belonged to President Nelson Mandela. "I just listened," Els said. "What do you say to a great man like that?"

Not much ruffles the 29-year-old from Johannesburg, except perhaps South Africa's defeat by England at Twickenham last December. A few days later he was still smarting. "Don't even mention it," he said before the subject could be raised.

Sport, Liezl excepted, is the love of Els' life. He played rugby and cricket at school and follows his national team's fortunes with a passion. He played tennis for his province and could have turned professional but, at the age of 14, chose golf instead. The decision has brought him riches galore, but finance figures lowly in his priorities. "I follow sport first and the stock market second," he said.

In addition to his homes in Johannesburg, George, on the Cape coast, and Lake Nona in Florida, Els has just bought a house at Wentworth. Part of the attraction was being able to catch the odd Test match or a day at Wimbledon and it will be his base in October during the Rugby World Cup.

Wentworth was also the scene of his three World Match Play titles. There is something about the simplicity of that form of the game that suits the South African and which makes him one of the favourites for the inaugural Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship, which starts tomorrow at La Costa in Carlsbad, California.

Apart from Wentworth's annual invitational event, it is high time that there was a proper matchplay event and Els is not alone in being caught up in the anticipation of the world's top 64 players facing each other in 18-hole head-to-head matches.

It helps that, as part of the new World Golf Championship series, there is a total purse of \$5m and a first prize of \$300,000 but, compared to the usual diet of strokeplay tournaments where players get two rounds to make the cut and three to play their way into contention, one factor above all will provide motivation. It is one well known to professional tennis players, but which may come as a shock to the leading golf pros.

"Let's face it, you lose your match, you are out of the tournament," Els said. "So you have to give everything for that particular match. In a strokeplay event, you can play yourself into a position for the week-



South Africa's Ernie Els celebrates one of his many birdies on the way to the PGA Nissan Open title in Los Angeles on Sunday

Nicholas makes a winning recovery

BY GEOFFREY WILSON
in Kapolei, Hawaii

ALISON NICHOLAS had every reason to expect a rosy future when she made her major breakthrough by winning the US Open in 1997. However, the past 19 months have been anything but kind to the British golfer and it was with a sense of relief that she greeted victory in the LPGA Hawaiian Open here in the weekend.

Despite struggling to a one-over-par 73 in the final round of the 54-hole event, Nicholas held off the challenges of Moira Dunn and Annette DeLuca to record a one-stroke victory. In winning the \$27,000 top prize, Nicholas took home more than she had earned in total since her US Open weekend.

"Last year was a tough year," Nicholas said. "I won the US Open in 1997 and I suffered from the pressure beyond that. Last year I was ill and fell off a moped, so this is a great change. I'm delighted to be back in the winner's circle."

"I expected too much, to do well every week. I suppose I became very busy and I didn't have time for myself. I didn't come out until Phoenix [in March] and that's a late start. I got pneumonia on top of that. So I was stop-start all year."

Nicholas started the final round here as co-leader with Michelle McGann. With the weather unpredictable, the Briton's game plan was to hit the middle of the greens and play for pars. Her score was not spectacular, but she finished on a seven-under-par total of 208, which proved good enough.

"I thought par or one over par would be good," she said. "To get that, I had to hit the middle of the greens and two-putt. Because of the weather, I knew it was going to be tough for everyone. I thought someone from the middle of the field would come up."

Nicholas added: "On the fifth tee we were absolutely soaked. It reminded me of home."

By the turn Nicholas had pulled away to a three-stroke lead. A chip to two feet on the 426-yard seventh hole gave her the only birdie on her card. She had bogeys at the 13th and on the closing hole, but the outcome was settled by them.

Dunn, with a final round of 68, and DeLuca, with a 70, had birdies late in the round to go to six under, but it was too little, too late.



Nicholas: One-stroke victory



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TOMORROW



ASHIA HANSEN,
Britain's triple jump
world indoor record
holder, talks to
BRIAN VIMER about
drugs testing, racism,
Linford Christie and
her rivalry with
Denise Lewis

Baffled by England's superiority complex

EVEN TWENTY years ago, newspapers published in London were not so obsessed with the fortunes of the England rugby team as they are today. Anyone would think the entire honour of the northern hemisphere rested on the shoulders of Lawrence Dallaglio and his chums.

Saturday's unsatisfactory win over Scotland has been discussed virtually wholly in terms of England's prospects in the World Cup. Indeed, one commentator went so far as to say that, before the Scottish match, England had been the "primary contender" for the trophy from the northern hemisphere.

What about France? I never completely trust computer-based rankings because they depend on the criteria that are adopted. Line-out counts, for example, are always questionable because they depend on whether a clear catch is counted as a line-out won, even though the



ALAN
WATKINS

ball is subsequently lost to the opposing side for one reason or another. Man is mightier than the machine.

None the less, France appear

My own ranking, based on results only, has France fourth, behind South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, in that order, but above England. Mind you, I still think New Zealand will win the cup. But there cannot be much argument that the chief threat to the southern hemisphere comes from France. This was so even before last Saturday, and despite their haggard and lucky win over Ireland in the Dublin rain two Saturdays before that.

Clive Woodward, the coach, and his players have taken a lot of stick because of the unjustified and vainglorious assumption that England have some God-given right to appear at least in the semi-finals of this autumn's competition. There is no such right. It is unfair to judge coach and players on that assumption.

True, England were slow to take

and Will Carling had England been any different in this respect – or in other respects as well, come to that. As someone who, more times than he cares to remember, has seen the England pack grind up the middle of the Twickenham pitch to trap the opposition into a penalty 22 metres in front of the posts, Saturday's performance was a feast of what used to be called the handling code, with three tries from each side, only one of which (Tim Rodber's) came from trench warfare.

Nick Beal scored a spectacular try, though I still cannot understand how the Scots allowed him more or less a clear run. Dan Luger showed a lot of class. Richard Hill had his best game for England for roughly a quarter of the match. Above all, Jonny Wilkinson did everything that could have been expected of him and a bit more.

Though I understand perfectly

ply to up points from missed penalties or conversions and alter the score accordingly, it is obvious that if he (or Gavin Hastings, or even the current member of the original squad Craig Chalmers) had been playing for Scotland instead of Kenny Logan, they would have won.

It is odd that Woodward refuses to give Wilkinson an immediate run at outside-half, with Matt Dawson or Kyran Bracken inside him. To play him at inside centre, a position to which he is not really suited, simply delays a change that will have to be made sometime – unless Woodward, in the biggest turn since Tony Blair surrendered on all fronts to the countryside lobby, picks Joel Stransky instead.

I do not underestimate Scotland's spirited performance, John Leslie's generalship or Alan Taft's

remarkable strength and speed in a lad of his advanced years. But, unusually, I was sitting in the upper stand rather than in the press box. From there I could see clearly that in the last quarter the Scots' forwards were unable to follow up kicks. They were ragged and slow. No doubt they were tired out. And who shall blame them?

Both Scotland and Ireland could still mount serious challenges in the World Cup. My native land has more to do. As one fan is supposed to have remarked: "Ah well, it's back to the drawing board."

Another privilege of the columnist is that he can imagine six impossible things before breakfast and then write about them. Here I confine myself to one: a Celtic Nations XV to play in the World Cup, with or without the New Zealand exiles, but replacing Scotland, Wales and Ireland as separate nations. I think such an outfit would give the countries from the southern hemisphere a good run for their money. But, as we know, it will never happen.

Lions record lures Guscott

THE PRINCE of Centres may be getting on a bit but, rather like the Prince of Wales, he does not see why mere age should prevent him assuming his rightful place on the throne. Jeremy Guscott yesterday committed himself to another year of Premiership rugby with Bath and, while England's midfield maestro would no doubt insist that he was taking things a season at a time, this latest extension to his contract suggests that the idea of a fourth Lions tour in 2001 might be lurking in the back of that shrewdest of minds.

Guscott can already pride himself on his membership of a select band of British and Irish internationals who made the Lions Test side on three consecutive tours: Gareth Edwards, Mike Gibson and Willie John McBride, who had the longevity to feature in no fewer than five separate parties, are among the legends with whom he is bracketed. But no one in Lions history has ever played in three major series-winning sides and, with the 1988 and 1997 triumphs safely stowed in his designer kitbag, that particular Holy Grail may lure the 33-year-old onwards for another 23 months or so.

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RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWITT

Or again. Of course, there will come a time when I can't make a break or a tackle and I'm no use to anyone, but I hope I'll have the sense to stop before that happens."

If Guscott's recent form is a reliable guide, he will not render himself useless for some time yet. Indeed, the Lions selectors were to convene tomorrow to choose a XV capable of giving the Wallabies or the All Blacks a hurry-up, his would be among the first names on the team list, probably stationed alongside Scott Gibbs, who partnered him in '93 and '97, or John Leslie, the Scottish New Zealander from Otago whose gifts were very much in evidence in Saturday's Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham.

There is still some doubt over the Lions' precise destination in the summer of 2001; while the Wallaby hierarchy believe there will be a three-Test series in Australia, their nearest and dearest enemies from across the Tasman Sea beg to differ.

Whatever the outcome, only Guscott has a chance of writing himself into the record books by completing the hat-trick to end them all. A tiny handful of colleagues from the 1989 victory in Australia are still playing Test rugby - Gary Armstrong and Craig Chalmers with Scotland, two of the West Countrymen may feel more inclined to buy a place in the top flight rather than earn one.

David Young with Wales - but neither of the two Scots toured South Africa in 1997 and, while Young was selected for that trip, he failed to make the Test line-up.

Meanwhile one of the South Africans who faced Guscott in the '97 series, Jamie de Beer, yesterday confirmed his intention to play for Bristol if the second division club complete their much-debated takeover of the financially challenged exiles of London Scottish. Not that the former Springbok from the Free State, one of the experienced imports behind a startling recent revival by the Richmond-based club, was remotely overjoyed at the prospect.

"I don't want to see the club bought out," he said. "All the guys who play here have worked so hard for each other and we should be allowed to go on and see just how far we can take it."

Bristol's downturn in fortunes, exacerbated by Sunday's narrow defeat at Coventry, only increases the likelihood of their pressing ahead with a deal that has outraged many rank and file rugby followers.

No longer the promotion certainties they once appeared to be - Worcester and Rotherham are now the form horses in Allied Dunbar Premiership Two - the West Countrymen may feel more inclined to buy a place in the top flight rather than earn one.

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Britain's void is Lloyd's worry

WHILE Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski played doubles together in London last night with a view to the Davis Cup tie against the United States in Birmingham at Easter, David Lloyd, the British captain, fretted about where his next international player was coming from.

Lloyd could not contain his frustration that Andrew Richardson, a squad candidate he hoped to see play against world-class opposition, had rejected a wild card for the £510,000 Guardian Direct Cup because he did not consider he merited it.

Richardson's world ranking of No 44 provided compelling evidence in support of his decision, even though it meant turning down the chance to collect £3,200 as a first-round loser. And that is precisely the amount the 24-year-old from Lincolnshire has won so far this year on his journeys to Qatar, Australia, India and Germany, competing chiefly in low grade tournaments.

"It was a total shock to be offered a wild card, and I didn't feel comfortable taking it," Richardson said. "The money would have been nice, but in singles I'm struggling at the moment. I was just being honest. I felt it would be better to give the opportunity to somebody else."

"It was honourable," Lloyd conceded, "but the bit that worried

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS

at Battersea Park

me was that he didn't say, 'I want to show these world class guys'. I was disappointed, but not in a nasty way. I would just like to see him play. If he was in the draw as a wild card, none of these guys would expect an easy ride. They don't like playing somebody like Andrew. He's a very good player. But he doesn't believe he's a good player."

Richardson's wild card went to Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, the world No 13 and Australian Open finalist, who advanced to the second round yesterday with a 6-1, 6-3 win against the Swiss Marc Rosset, the 1992 Olympic champion.

Britain does not have a wild card in the draw. Having offered the chance to Richardson, Jeremy Bates, the manager of men's national training at the Lawn Tennis Association, decided, in consultation with one of the tournament promoters, Jeremy Dier, to take three wild cards for pre-qualifying instead. Martin Lee, Simon Dickson and David Sherwood failed to win a set between them.

Lloyd's concern about the lack of a supporting cast to Henman and Rusedski - "It's a danger zone, the gap is getting wider and wider, it's a worry

when you have got two superstars and nothing else" - is acute. Both were injured when Britain lost 4-1 to Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace in 1991, the irony being that Richardson produced the performance of the tie in defeating Byron Black, Zimbabwe's No 1.

Moreover, Richardson accepted a wild card for the inaugural Battersea event last year, and the 6ft 7in left-hander nicknamed "Flex" defeated Rosset in the opening round. But

Richardson was so distraught after losing in the first round at Wimbledon last year to the Moroccan Hicham Arazi that he decided to quit the game.

Henman persuaded him to try again, and was his doubles partner in Qatar last month. Henman's coach, David Felgate, also helps Richardson with his game whenever possible.

Yesterday the British No 1 supported Richardson's decision concerning the wild card. "I think it was a good effort,"

Henman said. "He showed a lot of integrity. It's the first time a British player has done a thing like that for a long time."

Henman, the No 2 seed here, is due to play his opening singles match tomorrow night when a meeting with Jan Kroslik offers an opportunity to erase the memory of one of Britain's darker days. Kroslik won their only previous match in a Davis Cup tie on clay in Slovakia in 1995 as Britain slipped to their lowest point - Group

Two of the Euro-African Zone, effectively the third division.

Rusedski, the No 3 seed, is due on court tonight against Italy's Gianluca Pozzi, ranked No 65, who ended 1998 as the oldest player ranked in the world's top 100 (33 years and 6 months).

The strong winds yesterday threatened to transform the indoor tournament into an outdoor event. Fortunately the tent roof withstood the strain, although one or two players gave it some anxious glances.

"The roof makes strange noises in the wind," said Goran Ivanisevic, the No 7 seed, who advanced to the second round in spite of losing a set 6-0 against the Dutchman Jan Siemerink. "You have to be doubly concentrated, not break out like I did," added the Croat, who hit 12 double-faults before surviving, 6-3, 0-6, 7-6.

The strong winds yesterday threatened to transform the indoor tournament into an outdoor event. Fortunately the tent roof withstood the strain, although one or two players gave it some anxious glances.

Richardson, the No 8 seed, who advanced to the second round in spite of losing a set 6-0 against the Dutchman Jan Siemerink. "You have to be doubly concentrated, not break out like I did," added the Croat, who hit 12 double-faults before surviving, 6-3, 0-6, 7-6.

"Garry Schofield was an inspiration to me with the way he played for Doncaster against us," Holliday said. "He played with his head and never got his shorts dirty. If he can still do it, perhaps I can."

Holliday's willingness to get the boots out of the attic underlines his determination to continue at Swinton, despite their dismal start to the season.

"If I threw the towel in, it would show a complete lack of leadership qualities," he said.

He also has the backing of the club's chief executive, Tony Barrow. "We aren't going to panic after losing a couple of games," he said. "That would be stupid."

Super League has brought in some extra income with the sale of television rights for the next two seasons to Fox Sports



Holliday: Back in boots

in Australia. Matches will be shown throughout Australia every week during the season. Coming on top of a deal to screen matches in Francophone Europe and North Africa via the AB Sports channel in Paris, the deal shows the potential for extra income and exposure now that the competition controls its own rights.

Announcements of contracts covering other areas of the world are expected before the launch of the fourth season of Super League on 5 March, and a deal for a magazine-style programme to be shown on the BBC is also nearing fruition.

Michael Smith, the New Zealander sacked by Hull after allegedly drinking in a night club until the early hours before playing in their Challenge Cup tie at Castleford, is appealing against the club's decision.

Smith, who claims not to have had a drink all night, has called in the Rugby League Players' Association to represent him.

His alleged misdeeds pale into insignificance alongside events in Australia, where North Sydney have fined four players a total of almost £30,000 after a brawl in a night club. And Julian O'Neill, already kicked out by a series of clubs including the London Broncos, faces a similar fate at South Sydney after incidents that followed a pre-season game in Dubbo.

The stories have damaged the image of the game in Australia at a time when it is hoping for a world record crowd for the double-header that will open Sydney's Olympic Stadium in two weeks' time.

Gateshead's latest Australian recruits, Brett Grugan and Danny Lee, get their chance to stake a claim for a Super League starting place when the new club plays its second and last friendly, at Hunslet tomorrow.

Penney pleased by small change

Zimbabwe's player-coach scents success in this year's World Cup in England. By Iain Fletcher in Harare

I WOULDN'T be surprised if Zimbabwe do well in the World Cup," said Trevor Penney during the recent second Test match against the England A touring side. Being the player-coach of the Zimbabwean A team and a vital member of Warwickshire in the last few seasons, he is well placed to judge.

"Definitely, I think we could cause an upset or shock some countries who tend to think of us as easy pickings," he said.

"We've had two talented players return to Zimbabwe and this has made a huge difference to the quality of the side," said Penney, who was himself born in Zimbabwe. With three years left on a contract in England and a lucrative benefit in the offing, the 30-year-old Penney is, however, not likely to follow the example of Neil Johnson or Murray Goodwin and return to Zimbabwe.

"Murray was struggling to get a game in a strong Western Australian side so he decided to come back to Zimbabwe and Johnson has played in England for Leicestershire as well as in South Africa for Natal for a few seasons. He was also born in Zimbabwe so we're not poaching players but having our own natural talent return," Penney said.

"We only got Test status in 1992 so for the first few years

we were bound to struggle, but I can see that the standard is improving and having players return is a great boost."

England certainly struggled in Zimbabwe two winters ago in the infamous "we flipin' murdered em" series but, watching the recent Test between the A teams in Harare, it was difficult not to think that England looked the superior side.

Nine of the Zimbabwean

side had played Test cricket but, with only eight clubs in the country and about 100 cricketers, it is unrealistic to expect them to have the strength in depth that county cricket affords the English. It is not the depth that counts as much as the top 13 or 14 and Zimbabwe are no longer weak. The Flower brothers, Grant and Andy, are excellent cricketers and Heath Streak spearheads the bowling attack with aggression and pace - but Penney realises there is a cutting edge missing.

Penney believes that much of the improvement in Zimbabwean cricket has come since their southern neighbour, South Africa, invited them to enter a side into the Currie Cup competition. It is in this cricket that Penney plays for Zimbabwe.

"Playing against the South African provincial second teams has helped us greatly," he said. "It exposes us to lots of different players and has made our batsmen learn to face fast and aggressive bowling. Last year we came second, which proved that we were getting tougher in our attitudes and this year we are joint top with Eastern Province, who we go to play after this England tour. Without the South African help I admit we would struggle to develop as quickly as we have, because I think Zimbabwean cricket is as strong now as it has ever been."

And what about English cricket, with all the structural changes this coming season?

"I know it's been said before but we play too much cricket in England," Penney said. "There is no intensity about practice and that is another reason why I think we could do well in the World Cup.



Penney: "I can see that the standard is improving, and having players return is a great boost"

thing every day for six months and they have to look after their bodies and nurse niggly injuries. I just feel that often there is a lack of fun when really we should be remembering that we play cricket for enjoyment, for fun - that is why we played as kids."

"The idea of two divisions is good but a transfer market worries me. If the authorities want to improve the standard then they should reduce the number of overs in a day. So often the last session is played in a rush to get the 104 overs bowled. Cut it back to 90 overs a day just like we did in the cut-off time."

Test matches, allow players time to think and watch the quality improve as each over assumes greater importance. Pitches need to improve as well but the trick is to make every ball bowled as competitive as possible. It doesn't matter how and I can't confess to knowing the answers, so it will take experimentation, but good Test cricketers will only come from a healthy environment."

England were warned two winters ago of Zimbabwe's skill in the shortened game. May will tell how they have developed since then.

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"There are plenty of tournaments before we get to Sheffield but it's great to be going there with a win under my belt," he said. "All my rivals have been winning - John Higgins, Mark Williams and Ronnie O'Sullivan - so this is a great confidence boost. It's almost like winning your first tournament again, it feels that good."

Officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal said they were disappointed by the crowd's behaviour. "We are very shocked. Before holding any match, we should think carefully which team is unfit for

Meissnitzer closes on title

ALEXANDRA MEISSNITZER, maintaining her winning form from the recent World Ski Championships, beat her fellow Austrian Anita Wachter by 65 hundredths of a second in Are, Sweden, last night to virtually clinch the World Cup giant slalom title.

Competing under the lights on the world's only illuminated GS course, "Meissi" had a combined time of 2 minutes 12.97 seconds after two near-perfect runs down the Gastrapet. It was the ninth victory of the season and fourth in the series for Meissnitzer and it also extended her lead in the overall standings.

In the giant slalom standings, she now leads Wachter by 620 points to 436 and only needs a pair of top 30 finishes in the last two races to clinch the title. Meissnitzer, who led after the first run, also has a chance to win the seasonal downhill and super-G titles.

Wachter, racing on one of her favourite hills where she

Dott demolition heartens Hendry

STEPHEN HENDRY rediscovered his golden touch in Aberdeen last night to win Scottish Open title with a 9-1 defeat of his compatriot and first-time finalist, Graeme Dott. And while his first win in Britain for two years was a great relief to the 30-year-old world No 2, Hendry's objective is a record seventh world title at the Crucible.

"I knew if I could get a good start Graeme might find it hard going," Hendry said. "He didn't play as well as he has been doing all week but he has shown he has got the bottle to compete at the top."

"He probably didn't deserve to be 8-0 down but even then I had to be professional and get the job done. You've still got to get over the line and I didn't want to ruin all the good work."

Hendry's pay cheque of £80,000 takes his career earnings to £185,000. Dott collects £32,000 and can take great heart into his final two tournaments, the British Open at Plymouth in April and before that the World Championship qualifiers at Telford next month.

Crisis of identity

SOUTH AFRICA'S batsmen were put in double jeopardy yesterday when they found identical twins fielding side by side for much of the opening day of their three-day tour match against Northern Districts in Hamilton, New Zealand.

The presence of James and Hamish Marshall, who are virtually impossible to tell apart, confused players, spectators and even the scorers. In addition, there were two other pairs of brothers in the side. Herschelle Gibbs was the first man to involve the 20-year-old twins when his innings ended at 57 with a drive to mid-on. Scorers, commentators and spectators had to wait until lunch to dis-

cover that James had taken the catch. When the Northern Districts captain, Robbie Hart, brought on one of the Marshalls to bowl, officials and spectators had to wait until tea to discover the bowler was James.

The dilemma provided the only fun for the home side as the tourists rattled up 407 for 4 declared and, with the joke wearing thin, the arrival of the twins' father, Drew, in the scorers' room seemed to have solved the problem, but no. The embarrassed Mr Marshall had to admit: "They normally wear something different, which helps, but I have no idea which is which from here... their Mum might know."

"Calcutta may lose Test-centre status for two years," the Indian newspaper The Statesman said on Sunday. "Save cricket, ban Calcutta. The city is unfit for

BY HIMANGSHU WATTS

the game," the newspaper declared in an editorial comment.

Spectators disrupted play for 46 minutes on Friday when they threw water bottles and oranges at Pakistani fielders after Sachin Tendulkar was unlucky to be run out as he collided with a fielder. On Saturday, spectators armed with stones and bricks disrupted play for almost three hours when India were on the verge of defeat after Pakistan took three quick wickets. Play resumed only after police evicted the vast majority of the 50,000-strong crowd.

Eden Gardens in 1996 when spectators

threw missiles as Sri Lanka were on the verge of victory in a World Cup semi-final. The match was abandoned and then conceded by India.

Pakistan's captain, Wasim Akram, is reported to want a two-year ban on international cricket at the venue. "He [Wasim] felt that a two-year ban on holding international matches at the venue would be in order to teach trouble-makers a lesson," the Statesman said.

Officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal said they were disappointed by the crowd's behaviour. "We are very shocked. Before holding any match, we should think carefully which team is unfit for

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Officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal said they were disappointed by the crowd's behaviour. "We are very shocked. Before holding any match, we should think carefully which team is unfit for

THE SWINTON coach, Les Holliday, is to make a playing comeback at the age of 37, because of his club's injury crisis. The former Great Britain loose forward, who last played - in similar circumstances - over two years ago, is to turn out in the Alliance fixture against Batley tomorrow night and then consider whether to pick himself for Swinton's next first-team match, against Bramley on 7 March.

"I'm going to have a go and see how I feel," said Holliday, who spent most of his career with Widnes and Halifax, as well as representing his country three times. "I've kept myself pretty fit and it could be that I'll be able to help the young lads more out on the pitch than I can from the sidelines."

Swinton have six first-team players ruled out with long-term injuries and their results, including a 78-4 thrashing by H

SPORT

GUSCOTT KEEPS ON RUNNING P25 • ELS, A MATCH FOR ANYONE P23

Fifa go-ahead for Arsenal rematch

THE CONCEPT of fair play received a shot in the arm last night when Fifa decided to allow the rematch of the FA Cup fifth-round tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United to go ahead tonight. "We are obviously pleased that our original decision was seen to be the correct one," a Football Association spokesman said.

Arsenal prevailed 2-1 in the first encounter, on 13 February, but in a manner that led the club to offer immediately to restage the game. United had kicked the ball out of bounds so their player, Lee Morris, could receive treatment for an injury. But Arsenal's Marc Overmars scored

FOOTBALL

BY STEVEN BAKER

from a pass by Nwankwo Kanu following a throw-in that their team-mate, Ray Parlour, had directed towards the Blades' keeper, Alan Kelly.

The FA was quick to sanction Arsenal's offer, and Fifa's president Sepp Blatter was full of praise for the gesture. On reflection, however, Fifa decided it had to discuss the issue, especially as an actual infringement of the laws had taken place, merely a contravention of the spirit of the law.

Arsenal's Tony Adams said

he would have felt terrible if Fifa had banned the replay. The England defender was rested for the original tie, but said: "There's no way I could have lifted the trophy in May having not replayed this game. We want it to be played. We think it's fair that we start again even-stevens in the fifth round of the FA Cup."

Arsenal have sold 88,000 tickets at half price for the rematch, and Adams is delighted to play it again.

"It is the sensible and honest thing to do," he said. "A mistake has been made and the lads involved have thrown their hands up. I'm honest and I know the

manager is honest and there's no way we could have gone through to the next round without having offered a replay."

"Personally I was astonished that the game finished. I thought it would have been stopped before the end. I couldn't believe it when someone told me we had played the last 15 minutes."

"A lot of possible scenarios have come to light since, but the referee played it the way he saw it. I think Steve Bould, who was the captain, suggested a few things but the ref said there was nothing he could do because no laws had been broken."

Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, said it had not been easy to focus on the game.

"It has made things difficult," he said. "Yesterday for the whole day, the game was on and off and the phone kept going. It was less difficult for the players because they didn't know. They just came in and said 'do we play or not?'

Twenty-four hours before a game this is not the best way."

Arsenal, still glowing from their 5-0 demolition of Leicester City on Saturday, are without Martin Keown, Emmanuel Petit, Matthew Upson and Luis Boa Morte.

Wenger's Sheffield United counterpart Steve Bruce, who was incensed straight after the

game and only placated by Arsenal's offer, also believed Fifa was wrong to leave it so late.

Bruce had asked: "It's quite

farcical because, if they had

something to say, why didn't

they say it a week ago? Thou-

sands of our fans have bought

tickets and paid to go down

there, so it appears strange for

it to happen a week later. It

seems a bit late in the day to

change the decision."

Bruce looks set to keep faith

with the same side which start-

ed the original game and drew

with promotion-chasing Brad-

ford City on Friday.

"It's difficult enough to go to

Highbury once but it's even

more difficult twice. We know it's

a difficult task but we'll give it

our best shot again. I thought our tactics were spot-on last time we were down there.

"We know we have to be at our maximum and catch them on an off-day but I thought we played extremely well in the first game, especially in the second half. I thought we caused them a few problems and got a foothold in the game."

Bruce has added the reserve

goalkeeper Simon Tracey,

Michael Twiss and Nicky Mar-

ker to the 14 on duty against

Bradford, while around 4,000

United fans have bought tickets

at £8 each – half the price

charged for the original tie.

More football, page 28

Honda make rivals see red over white car

THE WORLD of Formula One likes nothing more than a bit of intrigue to spice up the long months of the close season, and the latest imbroglio concerns a plain white car that could be seen circulating at Silverstone yesterday, in between the bright sunshine, gale-force winds, gusts of hail and occasional snowflakes. The problem with the new Honda grand prix car, according to its rivals, is that it goes too fast – even though its first appearance in an actual race is still 12 months away.

Honda's initial entry into F1 came in 1984, also with a plain white car. Four years later, with only two wins to their name, they withdrew. But in 1983 they returned as engine suppliers to the Williams and McLaren teams, with whom they won several world championships. In 1991 a recession threatened Japanese industry and prompted a second withdrawal. But now the commercial climate is judged appropriate for a full-scale return.

Their strategy is to spend an entire year testing their prototype, under the direction of Harvey Postlethwaite, the English designer formerly associated with Hesketh, Tyrrell and

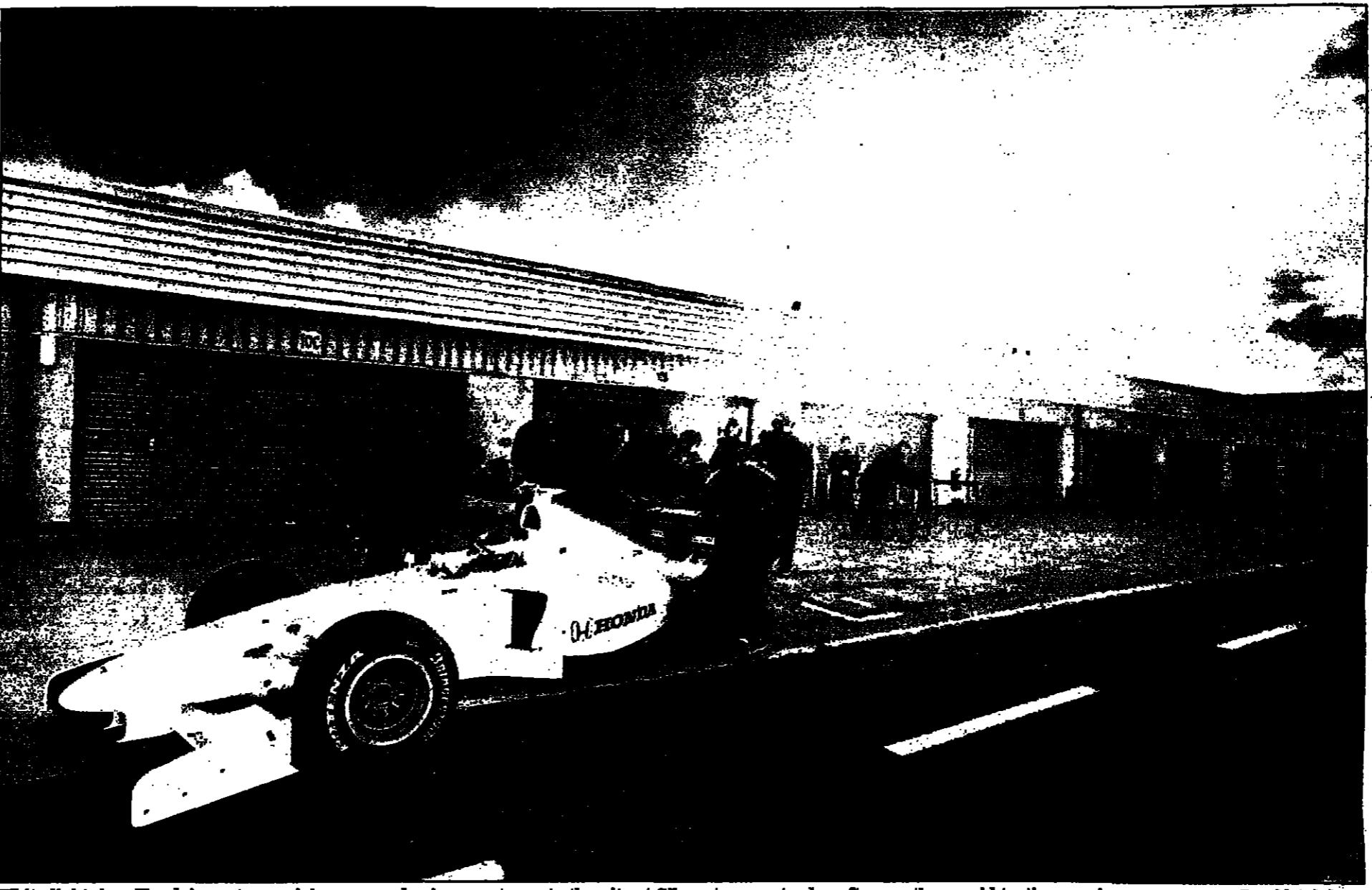
MOTOR RACING

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

at Silverstone

Ferrari, before making a competitive debut. Driven by Jos Verstappen, the talented young Dutchman, the car shocked its putative competitors by posting the fastest times throughout a three-day open test session at Jerez in late January. Suspecting that the Honda was being run beneath the permitted minimum weight limit, or otherwise infringing regulations, other teams demanded a rule to prevent such demoralising – and, more importantly, publicity-hogging – behaviour. Postlethwaite refused to comment on those accusations yesterday. "We're just getting on with doing what we want to do," he said.

Of this season's contenders, only Benetton ran their cars yesterday. The remainder of the British-based teams – McLaren, Williams, Jordan, Arrows, Stewart and the new BAR outfit – are expected today and tomorrow for final tests before crating up their brand-new cars and shipping them to Melbourne for the first race of the season, the Australian Grand Prix, a week on Sunday.



White lightning: Honda's controversial new grand prix car returns to the pits at Silverstone yesterday after another rapid testing session

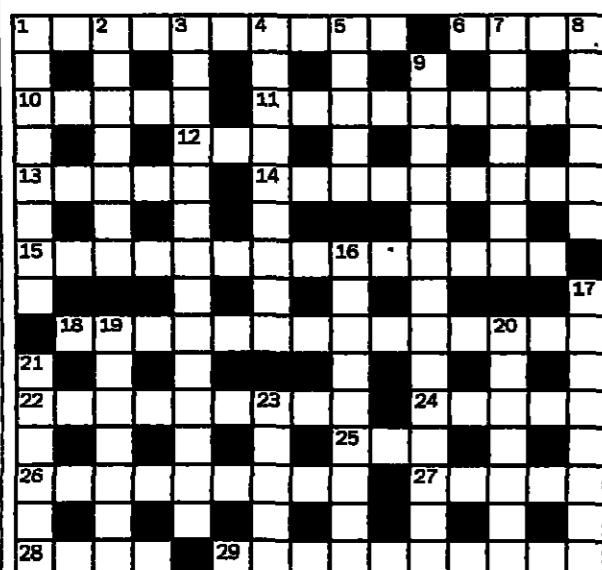
David Ashdown

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3853 Tuesday 23 February

by Asker

Monday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Perhaps rate this a sad film? (4-6)
6 Civil Engineer found among like experts (4)
10 Don't bother to try? (5)
11 Charge for carrying beer to mature (9)
12 Want not to see daughter born (3)
13 Vigorously brush object in one's garden (5)
14 Women successful, we hear, in getting a personal servant (5-4)
15 You gave weapon to lawless type that'll take your money? (3-5)
18 Re Balmain time: possibly it helped Victoria to remember (6,8)
22 House insect eats a burn offering (9)

DOWN
1 Lecture's how to provide some TV? (4,4)
2 Isn't bird seen in national place? (7)
3 Malt spirits could get Carolyn her job with navy (4,10)
4 Show sorrow about old

measure that's disgusting (9)
25 Crude about hostility (3)
26 It determines degree of drive to have dress in proportion? (4,5)
27 Exercise sense giving swimming aid back to fellow (5)
28 Toy you twice found non-U (2,2)
29 Wise friend keeps impolite nit in order (10)

Tyson in isolation after TV tantrum

IF MIKE TYSON is trying to show that he is repentant, reborn and ready to return to the ring, he is going about it in a strange way. Already in jail for assaulting two motorists, the former heavyweight champion is now in isolation after a temper tantrum.

When Tyson was sent to prison earlier this month, he and his lawyers kept quiet in the hope that he could avoid being disqualified from the ring again. He had only recently recovered his licence, which was taken away after he bit off part of Evander Holyfield's ear. Then he attacked two motorists near Washington after a minor traffic incident, and was given a year in prison. He was still on probation for raping a beauty pageant contestant in Indiana, having served only part of the sentence. The strategy seemed to be to keep a low profile and hope it all blew over.

But on Saturday, Tyson apparently threw a television at the bars of his Maryland prison and was sent to the administrative segregation unit. "Mr Tyson was going through some problems Friday night," said Eric Seleznow, spokesman for Montgomery Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

"He threw a TV," he said. "He threw it against some bars with people on the other side.

No one was hurt."

One possible explanation for

well behaved since he entered prison, that seemed unlikely. "He's been generally compliant and reasonable until this incident," Mr Seleznow said.

The question mark hanging over Tyson's career gets larger every day. One query is whether Indiana calls him back to serve out the rest of his rape sentence, if it deems the conditions of his parole violated. One reason why Tyson's lawyers did not immediately appeal the jailing was that if he did his time, then Indiana would leave things be. The authorities did not revoke the terms of his parole after the Holyfield incident. Tyson was said to have done well beforehand, to have done more than the required community service, and to have attended counselling sessions for sex offenders.

However, there is another set of questions, over the attitude of the Nevada Athletic Commission. They took his licence away in 1997 and gave it back last October, but it must be in jeopardy again. In particular, Tyson's handlers had told the NAC that he was often depressed, but that this could be controlled through the use of drugs. He was taken off the drugs a week before his fight in January with François Botha. The latest incident poses big questions about whether Tyson is safe without medication.

A disciplinary hearing was being held yesterday, with Tyson possibly liable to more jail time. But since he had been

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INSIDE

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

**Sarah Kane
was a writer of
shocking and
angry talent.
At the age of 27,
she took her
own life. Did
her plays
foreshadow
her death?**

BY PAUL TAYLOR

The media called her "the Bad Girl of British Drama", but my abiding memory of Sarah Kane, who at the age of 27 took her own life last Friday, is of a young woman delightfully doubled up in helpless, choking, gut-wrenching laughter as a group of us stood around cracking silly foreigner jokes on alien soil. It was in Copenhagen last November. A British delegation of dramatists, directors, theatre professionals (and this critic) had descended on the city for a weekend conference about the creation and nurturing of a new writing culture. The young woman who shot to notoriety and front-page prominence at the age of 23 with her Royal Court play *Blasted*, bided her time and stole the show at this event.

Playing up to an audience of eager yet slightly chipper Danes, the Brit contingent had perhaps overstated the positivity of the relationship between dramatist and theatrical establishment in this country. Here was the cue for Kane, in the evening session, to cut the self-congratulatory cant and launch a devastating account of the innumerable ways in which a writer's vision is often, and for institutionalised reasons, betrayed in this world mecca of theatre. The Danes lapped her up.

Afterwards, with everyone a bit hysterical from a gruelling 14-hour day, we drank too much and started poking fun at the (to our ears) supreme absurdities of the Danish tongue where, say, the word for "bookshop" is "boghandel". My first thought that night was: how can one square the spectacle of this slight, fresh-faced blonde woman, creasing herself in schoolgirlish laughter, with the dark extremities of the dramatist's imagination that has put on stage every atrocity from the eating of dead babies to forcible sex-changes in totalitarian prisons; from violent male rape to castration and a mutilated penis sizzling on a barbecue? My second thought was: no, somewhat frighteningly, this adds up. The life-loving elation was the flip side of the depression that did, indeed, eventually push her to the brink and beyond.

So, it's the laughter I remember: but in her short professional life, it has to be said there was not a great deal for her to laugh about. *Blasted*, the play in which Bosnia suddenly erupted into a Leeds hotel room (brilliantly staged by James Macdonald at the Theatre Upstairs in January

1995), can be seen as both the making and the unmaking of her. Not many 23-year-old dramatists wake up to find their latest work the subject of heated discussions on *Newsnight*, or dismissed as "a disgusting piece of filth" by the *Daily Mail*, or hailed as the most auspicious Royal Court play since Edward Bond's Sixties masterpiece *Saved* with its metaphor of the baby-stomping. What had been put round Kane's neck was simultaneously a garland and a millstone.

After a suicide, it is only human to grope for something – or preferably someone – to blame. It is a temptation that should be resisted. In the following days, there will, doubtless, be cheap journalistic exercises in breast-beating hindsight, alongside the suggestion that, given her mental fragility and the media feeding-frenzy that tended to accompany her every play, the suicide was a tragic accident waiting to happen. The truth is more complicated and humdrum. It's certainly the case that very few journalists come out well from the *Blasted* brouhaha – not least this critic. Not only were the reviews almost unanimously hostile, but the play provoked an astonishing level of moral outrage which spread to the news pages of papers that normally regarded theatre as entirely superfluous.

It's perhaps no accident that, just as her friend Mark Ravenhill followed up *Shopping and Fucking* with a contemporary reworking of the Faust legend, Kane moved after *Blasted* into the relatively less exposed area of classical updates. But *Phaedra's Love* is, I sense, a very personal work. The aches to find something redemptive and tender in a godless, loveless universe (crucially, Kane was a lapsed born-again Christian) here becomes more insistent. The play's most piercing stroke is Kane's radical solution to the tricky problem of finding a modern-day counterpart for the proud young prince, Hippolytus, who spurned his stepmother's amatory overtures with a priggish, militant chastity.

behaviour was not motivated by malice, but by an almost childish sense of journalistic fun – the thought that it would be a wheeze to drag the theatre out of the ghetto of the theatre pages and into mainstream public attention.

Of course, in all the resulting fog of whipped-up synthetic indignation, the play – which both exhibits precocious talent and is obscurely flawed – never received the kind of sustained analysis it deserves. It is a drama in which the central character (like Kane's own father) is a tabloid journalist and, among many other things, *Blasted* is an indictment of the priorities of tabloid journalism. Ironically, the reception of this work endorsed her cultural diagnosis. Thought was abandoned: instead, the press gave Kane the "Bad Girl" label and left her with the impossible dilemma of living up to it – and living it down.

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In her version, he becomes a grungy, reclusive, Nineties slob whose denial of love is expressed not as celibacy but as the indiscriminate indulgence of someone who treats sex as junk food and crap TV. He idly allows Phaedra to give him a blow-job, which cruelly highlights the fact that while it's easy to get in to this guy's knickers, it's impossible to get in to his heart.

Kane's last two works pushed two divergent extremes: visual and verbal. *Cleansed*, again beautifully mounted by Macdonald last spring on the main stage of the Court, was like a cross between a play and an installation piece as it evoked an unrelenting harrowing institution designed to rid society of its undesirables. For

the first time here, in my estimation, the yearning for some loving, purifying alternative to the horror symbolised in the incestuous devotion between a brother and sister, made a deeper dramatic impact in a Kane play than the atrocities.

A drama for four lost voices, *Cruze* moved to the opposite pole, some critics likening it to radio drama, notwithstanding director Vicki Featherstone's superb staging concept, in which the characters sat on a line of swivel chairs like the guests on some metaphysically confessional TV show. The piece is Jerry Springer meets TS Eliot, quotations from whose poetry run through the verbal exchanges. In my review, I wrote: "On a number of occasions, *Cruze* echoes *The Waste Land*: 'Give, sympathy, control.' Eliot's poem, written during a nervous breakdown, gestures towards regeneration myths with which it cannot make a living connection. At a further extreme remove, Kane's play beseechingly gestures towards the impotent gestures of the poem. That is the measure of its despair. Watching it, it crossed my mind that perhaps, as with Eliot, a reconversion experience to Christianity was on the cards."

I suspect, though, that on these deep issues she was incapable of the consolations of self-deception. Sarah Kane was a moralist of sometimes rebarbative rigour and mordant wit. A terrible pity that her career, which began with a storm of publicity, looks set to end in the same way. We all, press and theatre included, need to take far greater care of young talent and to remember that, as Ezra Pound put it, art is news that stays news. But, if the ending is grievously premature it also, like her writing, demonstrates an unselfspare logic and, yes, considerable strength of character.

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Ivan Kynd

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Baby 'experiments'

Sir: I am horrified at the way in which the work of Dr David Southall has been dismissed in the media ("Investigation ordered after 28 babies die in hospital experiment", 18 February).

Headlines concentrating on 28 babies who have died out of 123 treated by the negative pressure tank (iron lung) method could have read, just as meaningfully, as "94 babies saved from certain death". A similar number died from conventional treatment in the control group. Babies born very prematurely live their first few weeks on the margin, under constant threat from infection or other complications.

If we pursue witch-hunts instead of knowledge we will all suffer, as my son did for the first six months of his life at the hands of "conventional treatment", until Dr Southall put him in a negative pressure tank and gave him a whole night's rest and sleep for the first time and so gave him the rest of his life.

Having gone through the pain of seeing my baby "intubated" and "oxygenated" with lungs controlled by machines, I ask just how much more barbaric can conventional treatment be. The feet and hands are cut several times a day for tests and lines inserted into limbs and the head, along with a range of other excruciating procedures.

No wonder parents of premature children are terrified and bemused by consultants. At the time of Dr Southall's trials, proponents of conventional techniques generally refused even to give painkillers to the babies. The line given to parents was that premature babies did not feel pain. No wonder Dr Southall came across so differently to parents, as he spent his life searching and testing alternatives that might cause the parent and child so much less grief.

Doctors who strive for improvements to relieve pain and suffering should not be pilloried. Experimentation is the only way we will learn for future generations.

TONY PIERCE

Mereworth, Kent

Sir: The question of informed consent is always difficult for emergency situations. If we banned all randomised controlled trials including sick babies we will condemn future children to no prospect of better medical care. What is the best method of obtaining informed consent from distraught parents two to four hours after the birth of their poorly baby?

The authors of the scientific paper on the North Staffordshire trial (*Pediatrics* 1996; vol 98 pp 1154-1160) report that 36 parents chose not to allow their babies in the trial and also report that two sets of parents withdrew their children from the study after initially giving consent. These facts are reassuring.

Medical ethical standards are changing and I am sure paediatricians are better at getting consent now compared with 10 years ago. Patient (and parent) information leaflets are now inspected by ethics committees and we have all learnt to write in simple, uncomplicated language.

Dr RICHARD J LINDLEY
Consultant Geriatrician and Senior Lecturer
Western General Hospital
Edinburgh

Oafs rebuked

Sir: Seldom have I seen a more pusillanimous leader than yours of 19 February, in which you deplore Jack Straw's call to us not to "walk on by".

Situations which involve violence should be handled with care, but lesser incidents we can all confront. Despite my age (79), or perhaps because of it, I recently rebuked three young men for smoking in a railway carriage. They mocked and jeered, but then I started going round the carriage, canvassing support: I had got no further than the first fellow-passenger when the smokers backed down and



Carnival in Venice No 2: Revellers gather at the Artists' Ball

Andrew Burman

extinguished their cigarettes.

This kind of oafish behaviour is not a "public display of high spirits": the least we can do is support each other in combating rudeness, rowdiness and vandalism, as and when they start. Jack Straw is right.

Dr C D V WILSON
West Kirby, Merseyside

Sir: Jack Straw's call for a more community-led approach to fighting crime is a welcome change from the right-wing pronouncements he made recently about the alleged effectiveness of prison.

However, whereas everyone has a duty to do what they should, they come across a violent crime being committed against an innocent party, such as a mugging. I do not think it is wise to recommend that people should place their lives at risk for the sake of property. A few smashed windows on a phone box are utterly irrelevant in comparison with the value of human life. Far better to advise people merely to report the incident to the police.

Sociologists have rightly told us that crime is a result of poverty and poor education and socialisation. However, crime is also a result of a wider cultural ethos which has, for at least the past twenty years, encouraged competition, social atomisation and greed. This is the paradox at the heart of the Blair administration - a call for community spirit, but acceptance of an economic system based on individualism. I fear Mr Straw's comments will fall on largely deaf ears.

MARKS LANG
Port Talbot, South Wales

No royal wimp

Sir: Kirsty McLeod's article on royal parenting (Historical Notes, 15 February) is not the good advertisement for her book *Royal* that she obviously hopes.

Apart from the politically incorrect mocking of an individual

with knock-knees how does one's "upbringing" produce this physical defect? My own son suffered from it, not I hope because if the way we brought him up. However he managed to survive thirty years in the infantry, including a spell in the Parachute Regiment.

Nor can George VI have been all that of an invalid if he managed to survive Dartmouth pre-1941 and active service at sea in 1914-18, including Jutland. He also coped with the then dangerous activity of learning to fly as an RAF pilot and was a keen rider to hounds.

Wing Commander TOM HUDSON
Buckingham

Thames abused

Sir: Lord Attenborough and others (letter, 22 February) are right to highlight the planning nonsense that is affecting the Thames in Richmond. Sadly, the problems of out-of-scale, inappropriate development on the banks of the Thames are not confined to Richmond and Twickenham, but are affecting the Thames and its banks along its entire London stretch.

Much of the development is for so-called "luxury housing" which does little to deal with local housing needs, often adds to local transport chaos by demanding unnecessary parking spaces and denies rights of access to the river

which, in turn, restricts recreational and educational opportunities for millions. In some parts development turns the river banks into concrete canyons, which denude the banks' natural quality and ability to deal with flooding. Proposals at Wapping and at Fulham football ground go as far as to build into the river - a true indication of the inefficient use of land in London.

Old Father Thames is literally being sold down the river. Significantly, in its proposals for the Greater London Authority, the Government mentions the Thames once, and then only in terms of transporting waste or tourists.

PAUL DE ZYLVIA
Friends of the Earth London
London N1

GM testing time

Sir: Thank you to Anne McElvoy for her insight-rich article ("The Government must listen to our fears about GM food" (17 February)). I have many

reservations about GM foods, and these are certainly not due to my "peasant suspicion of technology": I have a degree in biology and considerable laboratory experience and have read textbooks on GM techniques and scientific papers on the subject, every one of which has set loud

alarm bells ringing in my ears.

What we need is considerably more than "to tighten testing and licensing procedures along the same lines as those applied to new drugs on the market". Drugs are easy to test. They are specific, pure chemicals whose dosage can be precisely controlled. Foods are infinitely complex. Possible harmful nutritional effects from eating genetically distorted plants may only be evident in the long term or even in our children or grandchildren. It will, realistically, take 50 years to fully test them for safety.

We don't need them and would do well to divert our precious resources and creativity to developing the many and diverse safe foods we already have.

JOANNA CLARKE
Glasgow

Sir: Discussions about the safety of cloning and of GM food always sound like two blind people arguing whether it is safe to cross the road. One of them is saying, "There is no evidence that there is any traffic, and there is a big reward on the other side". The other replies,

"There may be traffic coming, and the only way to know is to step out and see if we get hit - I'm staying here". The first responds, "I'm prepared to take the risk, and if I go, we both go."

GM food safety is not just about

whether rats feel a bit under the weather - it is about terminator seeds empowering commercial interests (even against governments), about unforeseeable and irreversible ecological consequences. It is also about removing man's need to understand nature and inserting an utter dependence on products and patents.

So I would say this to the impartial scientist: "For God's sake, have a point of view. This could be the very death of impartial scientific research."

To the confused politician: "Commercial genetic engineering could be the greatest threat to the nation state since the atom bomb. You'd better be prepared to fight that corner if you want my vote."

KUNO van der POST
Oxford

French lead the way

Sir: Your report on the reduced working hours in France ("Kafkaesque world of a French social experiment", 22 February) is fine on economics and business but omits mention of perhaps the most important impact of all: on the people themselves.

With ever-increasing technology and computerisation it makes sense that sooner or later people should be allowed to start planning their lives around the certainty of more leisure time. Better an element of choice and gradualism that the enforced "leisure" of early redundancies and unemployment - which is what the free market has meant in Britain (and of course in France so far).

That France, once again, shows a willingness to be mocked for its experiments in revolutionary imagination deters no francophile such as myself from believing that, as with pasteurisation, aviation, and the cinema, we shall be following in France's socially creative footsteps in a few years' time.

IAN FLINTOFF
Altrincham, Cheshire

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RICHARD GUNTER
London W14

Democratic left

Sir: Your leading article of 20 February was right in drawing attention to the authoritarian way in which the Prime Minister sought to influence the choice of the Labour leader in Wales and his evident determination to deny individual members of the party in London even the right to nominate Ken Livingstone as a candidate for mayor.

But what you have overlooked is that almost all the campaigns for democracy in Britain and in the Labour Party have been led by the left.

It was the left that won the right of the British people to have a referendum on Europe in 1975, previously opposed by all the party leaders.

It was the left that extended the franchise for the election of the Labour Party leader, previously exercised by MPs only, to allow constituencies and affiliated trade unions to have a say through an electoral college, which was bitterly criticised at the time, but led to the election of Tony Blair in 1994.

And when, last week, the government whips issued instructions to Labour MPs to vote for a transitional House of Lords based entirely on patronage, the left voted against it.

By contrast, when the "New Labour" National Executive, in accordance with the Prime Minister's wishes, decided to vet all the names for the European elections, and put them in order, on a single party list, they denied the electors the right to vote for the individual candidates whom they support, which is a basic democratic right.

All candidates standing for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly have also been vetted and this is why Dennis Canavan MP and Ian Davidson MP have been kept off the ballot paper.

In the next general election it is possible that the same centralised process will be used to deny some constituencies the right to select the candidates they want to represent them.

"New Labour" seems determined to squeeze democracy out of the party, and out of Parliament itself.

TONY BENN MP
(Chesterfield, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Cash economy

Sir: I constantly hear about measures to encourage and help small businesses tool up and prepare for the new world of electronic commerce.

Last week I needed, in a hurry, to transfer £600 from my current account with a major high street bank to another of my current accounts with a different major bank.

After phone calls to both I was advised that the quickest and cheapest option was as follows: travel to a branch of bank number one and withdraw £600 in cash; travel to a branch of bank number two and hand it over the counter. (This supposing, of course, that I could find one of the dwindling number of bank branches.)

Is anyone out there looking at how very large companies might be encouraged to prepare for the 21st century?

JANE PERRY
Guildford, Surrey

Lost in translation

Sir: Steve Boggan's report (20 February) about the pitfalls of English usage here and in the US reminded me of the son of a Texan friend and his wife. He was called Randolph and she Gaynor and they came to London on business. At parties they introduced themselves charmingly with the words, "Hello, we're Gay and Randy." For a while they wondered why people looked a bit put out or muttered things like, "Jolly good!" before edging away, until a kind colleague finally explained.

RICHARD GUNTER
London W14

FROM TIME to time I like to bring you an update on the way the English language is evolving, with notes on the evolution of particular words as monitored by my tireless team of lexicographers and language mavens. Here, then, is our glossary supplement for February 1999.

Alternative: 1) Word used to describe "alternative" medicine by people who don't like the word "alternative", as that makes it sound something like "alternative comedy". Luckily, there is no such thing yet as "complementary comedy".

Drug: See "Analogue".

Director's cut: The film the director thought he was making in the first place.

Epiphany: Word much used by reviewers, describing the moment of revelation when they suddenly see what the book or play they are reviewing is really all about.

Investigative Description given to a term given to the first book written by an alternative comedian.

Leisure: An extremely strenuous activity pursued in gyms, by men and women in black underwear.

Leopard: A manifestation of the theory that weightlifters' uniform looks good on women.

Multiculturalism: Tony Blair's system which explains how we pay the penalty in this life for games, boo-boos and public relations howlers which we have committed in a previous life. (See "Déjà Vu Doo")

Paradigm: Yet another word for template.

Placebo: Kind of chalk and water tablet which is now thought to be more effective against most common ailments than ordinary medicine.

Reappraisal: Process whereby politicians agree to review some highly controversial public policy and then, when everything has been considered, go on exactly the same as before.

Reincarnation: The theory held by the Americans that if you bomb an aspirin factory in the Sudan, ter-

rorists everywhere will lose heart and give up the struggle.

Special: A kind of very strong beer brewed for homeless people.

Symposium: Name given by academics to a business conference. (See "Piss-up".)

Synchronicity: The ability of swimmers in a pool to do the same ridiculous movements at exactly the same time.

Technical: Unknowable, inexplicable, unfathomable, as in: "We are sorry for the delay of this service, which is due to technical reasons".

Watershed: Name given to the time in the evening after which parents go to bed and leave their children watching television.

Work-out: A doomed attempt by leisure people to outwalk or out-bicycle a machine.

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Paradigm: Yet another word

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We must not ignore this huge gulf in school standards

"GIVE US a boy to the age of seven, and we will give you the man," reckoned the Jesuits. Dressed up in more gender-neutral language, the Government would agree. That is why it regards the primary school league table - which are published today, covering more than 13,000 schools in England and Wales - as so important. If the children are educated properly, the argument runs, there may be some hope for the teenagers.

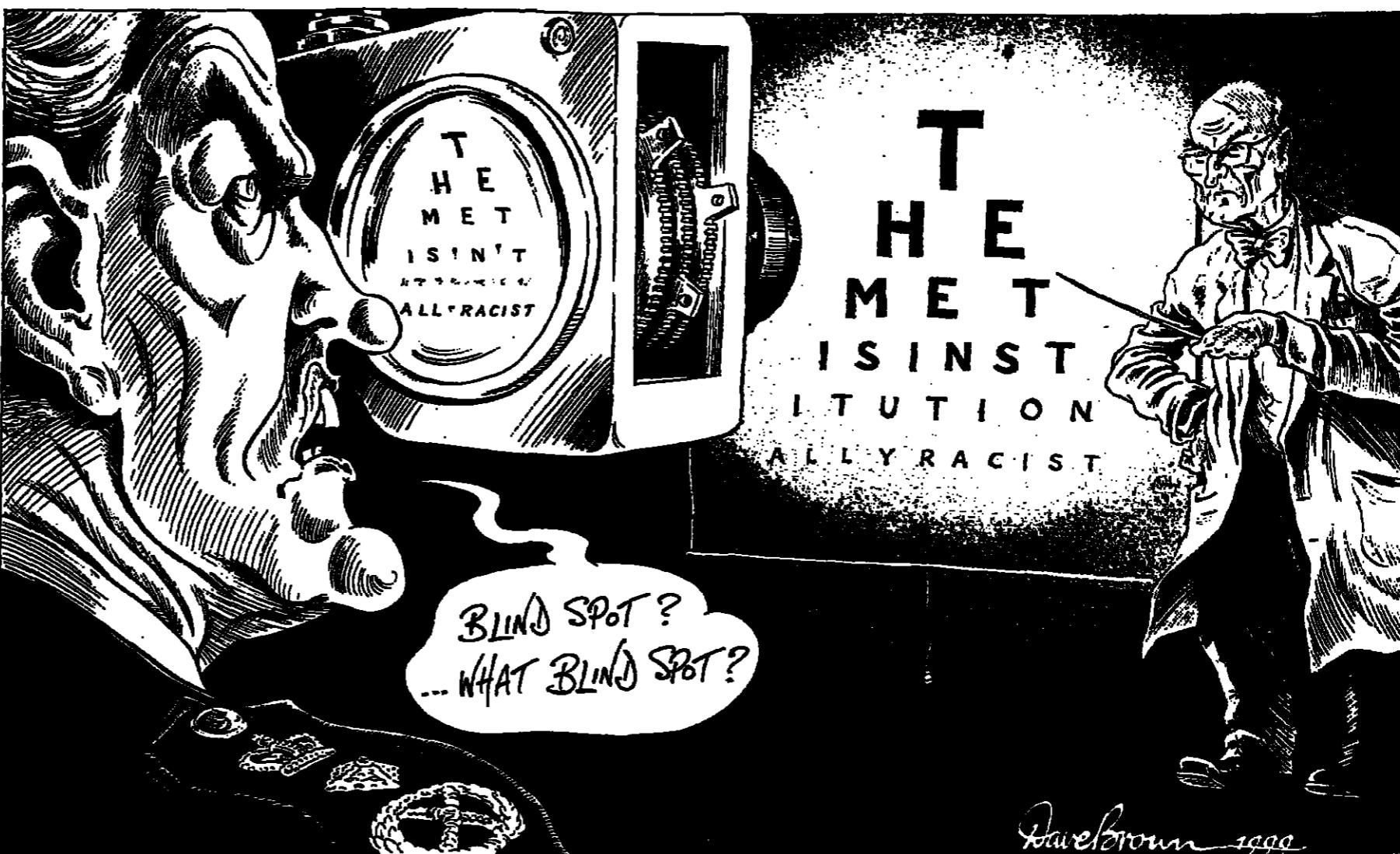
The Government proclaims that people want technocrats, not ideologues. Therefore, its stress on being able to deliver the basics. Therefore, too, the rather moronic refrain "education, education, education". As part of its drive to improve schools, the Government has set standards which 11-year-olds must reach. In English, 80 per cent of children should have reached the standard by the end of this parliament, and 75 per cent in maths. The new league table shows that the initial acceleration towards these targets is now over. The number of children achieving the required standard in maths has fallen by 3 per cent from last year; in English, there is little movement.

The Government will blame this flattening of the learning curve in maths on the, admittedly popular, introduction of the teaching of mental arithmetic. But that explanation ignores the huge disparities there are between the schools at the top and those at the bottom of the league tables. In the worst school in the country, only 15 per cent of pupils achieved the required standard in English, and only 4 per cent in maths, while in the best 27 schools, all the children achieved the standard in both. Such vast differences between schools are unacceptable.

There are few surprises when we look at the tables and see where the good and the bad schools are: the best are in the two car suburbs to the west of London, the worst are in London's impoverished East End.

Such analyses can mask the great divisions that exist within regions - and that is where these tables can help both teachers and parents to expose incompetent practice. If neighbouring schools with similar pupils are achieving widely diverging results, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the fault lies either with the teachers or with their methods. Parents can use these tables to test the anecdotal evidence on the merits of their children's schools - though the tables would have been more useful if they had been published earlier in the academic year, when parents are deciding where to send their children.

Divisions among schools within the same local authority area will not disappear by having money thrown at them indiscriminately. Schools need innovative and inspirational headteachers if they are to maintain their momentum in the rough terrain ahead. Such teachers will not, and should not, come cheap.



If no one wants peace, bombs won't help

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the former US secretary of state, once described Bosnia as "the problem from hell". Kosovo is proving to be even worse.

Once again, Nato is on the verge of unleashing bombs on Serbian positions as yet another deadline is reached. And once again Slobodan Milosevic is taking the allies to the wire and possibly beyond. This time we need to be doubly cautious before committing ourselves to an act of war.

Threats of bombing have worked in the past as a means of curbing Serbian aggression against the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo, as they did eventually in constraining Serbian massacres in Bosnia. But on this occasion the US is waving the stick as a means of forcing a peace plan. It is by no means certain that the threats are as effective

as necessary. For a start, the rights and wrongs of the two sides are not as clear. The peace proposals worked out in Rambouillet have been rejected not just by the Serbs but also by the Albanians, who look as if they want to use Nato intervention not to achieve a settlement, but to pursue their own agenda of complete independence.

At the same time, the use of force, far from frightening Belgrade, is threatening to divide the allies. While the Americans seem gung-ho, the Europeans are much less enthusiastic about unleashing the bombers in the face of Russian opposition, without more specific sanction from the UN. Nor are even the British convinced that the bombing alone can achieve its purpose.

That, even at this 11th hour, is what the West needs to remember in this continuing crisis. The objective is the acceptance by two sides of a peace proposal to give Albanians autonomy while preserving Serbian territorial integrity. The threat of force may aid the negotiations. But if neither side really wants peace, then bombing won't help.

A game too far

THE NEWS that Camelot is applying to run another National Lottery prize draw is as predictable as it is unwelcome. Camelot wants to make as much money as it can while it still has the licence to run the National Lottery. But this natural desire to maximise profit is no reason for Ofot, the regulator responsible, to grant Camelot's request. Ofot would do well to ponder the plethora of existing channels by which mug punters are exploited.

There are lottery draws on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Instants scratch cards. There are "numbers" games run by the bookies. And you can still do the football pools, play the fruit machines, go to bingo, buy Premium Bonds and bet (by phone or the Internet) on anything from the Halls Dandy Novices' Chase at Carlisle, to whoever is to replace Paddy Ashdown at Westminster. Maybe, just maybe, Camelot's new scheme is a game too far.

Condon should go, but there are worse demons still to be exorcised

THE NOISE, the noise! Just when we most need our wits about us, our sensibilities are assailed by the plump wallings of the media in distress. Jack Straw's (partially successful) attempt to injure the early appearance of the Macpherson Committee's report into the Stephen Lawrence investigation was misguided. But I am not going to go to the stake for a newspaper's inalienable right to scoop its rivals' over three days; I have had all the journalistic narcissism that I can take.

And the Government's intervention also allowed a free hit for the Conservatives, with Sir Norman Fowler (he is, by the way, shadow Home Secretary) popping up on all outlets to champion freedom and to accuse Labour of control-freakery. Much less noticed will have been Sir Norman's own musings on the true topic of the week, the contents of the Macpherson report itself; or at least, what we know of them.

It is a fair bet that Sir William's phrase concerning the Metropolitan Police, that it suffers from and is corrupted by a "pernicious and institutionalised racism", will become part of contemporary history. Like other monsters that have haunted our recent past - anti-Semitism, violent homophobia and football hooliganism - the image of an inherently prejudiced, Alabama-style police force was supposed to have been long expunged by exposure to the new tolerance.

Acutely sensitive to the problems, a new generation of enlightened chief constables had got stuck in and instituted a programme of training,

awareness seminars, black recruitment and discipline. And none had done more than Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Met.

And then, in 1993, along came the Lawrence case. On weaker ground when talking about the case itself (since it had, after all, happened on his Party's manor, so to speak) Sir Norman Fowler moved from outright condemnation mode to downright incomprehensible mode.

What, he was asked, did he think of the charge of institutionalised racism? Ah, he replied, if this meant that Macpherson was saying that "every single police officer was racist", then that needed to be looked at. After all the Met was "one of the good institutions, not one of the bad". Sir Paul Condon, he felt, should stay, as his departure would send out a "very bad message".

If nothing else, this pathetic sequence of answers should remind us that it took Jack Straw (for all his authoritarian tendencies), only a few weeks to do what the Tories couldn't manage in four years, and to set up an inquiry in the first place. This is hardly surprising, for Sir Norman's combination of complacency and obfuscation mirrors the shortcomings exposed in what we have seen so far of the Macpherson report.

Now Sir William is not God. The report and its conclusions are not infallible. Like jurors, we should treat what we read to our own critical processes, viewing it in the light of our own experience. But it seems to me that the Macpherson report has latched on to a central problem, which



DAVID AARONOVITCH

The Met, whatever its resolutions, treats black people as inherently more criminal than white people

most of us in the Met area know about, but which the Commissioner seemingly cannot comprehend. This is that his police force, whatever its resolutions, consistently treats black people as being inherently more criminal than white people.

This underlying prior judgement, made by many of the individuals in an institution, is what constitutes institutional racism, not, as Sir Paul appears to believe, ingrained discrimination on the part of its managers. It is a racism that can exist even when the cantankerous culture of "cooks", "nigga" and "jungle-bunnies" has long been driven underground. And, lamentably, it is a racism that Sir Paul, his senior colleagues, and many of us who ought to know better, have given comfort to.

In recent years the Met has had to

account for the fact that its officers stop and search a disproportionate number of young black men. Almost invariably Sir Paul and others have fallen back on the "unpalatable truth" argument. In certain areas with high crime rates there happen to be large black populations suffering high rates of unemployment, and it is inevitable that operations in these areas will lead to a distortion of the figures.

But the alternative would be, it is suggested, to allow misguided political correctness to take over and to begin to stop and search white pensioners simply to balance the books. In other words, young black men get stopped a lot because young black men commit a whole lot of crime. Waddya want us to do?

Even passionate liberals have lazily bought into some of this argument. But just as most of us have some experience of crime, so also many of us have black friends and acquaintances who have been the victims of such prior judgements. To be a young black man in possession of a fast car is, in the eyes of the passing copper, to be a young black man in possession of something else. And this makes Condon's sense, because the young black man is more likely to be unemployed and thus to be paying for his ostentatious display of wealth by nefarious means.

Macpherson hints at the need for Condon to go, but does not recommend it. Of his other leaked recommendations, some seem to be pure common sense, some are worrying (such as the suggestion, possibly garbled, that private displays of racism be subject to prosecution) and others, such as the ability to retry a case after an acquittal, will require a great deal of argument. The most important relates to the pressing need to make the police complaints and disciplinary procedure more open and effective.

However there is one last warning to be added. It wasn't a policeman who stabbed Stephen Lawrence, and it isn't Sir Paul Condon's fault that the young man died. Listening to the excruciating garbage from the mouths of those accused of the murder was chilling. We still have a long way to go before our worst demons are exorcised.

They are not, of course, alone. This sin of prior judgement - the assumption that you can know something important about somebody from appearance and impressions - is widespread. Ask asylum-seekers. When picking the mote out of the eye of the Met, we have some beams of our own to deal with. But Condon's inability to "get it" means that he cannot credibly lead the process of dismantling these assumptions.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The new rule is: if anyone says it's a racial incident, then it is. Don't piss about."

Sir Paul Condon
Metropolitan Police Commissioner

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A lie told often enough becomes the truth."

Vladimir Ilich Lenin
Soviet leader

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

World comment on India and Pakistan's agreement to reduce nuclear risk

and again, it is India that must provide the needed impetus for normalisation. It can help Pakistan overwhelm elements that seek war. The test is about both sides tons of good luck.

Frontier Post, Pakistan

ONLY THE naives will expect a dramatic breakthrough. There

may even be occasional setbacks. After all, there are curmudgeonly politicians and bureaucrats on both sides who would not like their pet hates to disappear suddenly. But Mr Vajpeyi will still leave his mark on history if he succeeds. More than the agreements, and disagreements, therefore, what the confabulations in Lahore have achieved is to put peace and friendship on top of the agenda, from which it will not be easy to dislodge them.

Hindustan Times, India

The Pioneer, India

Does money buy happiness?



HAMISH
MCRAE

Moguls are dreaming up yet more sophisticated objects for the new super-rich to buy

MAYBE MONEY can't buy you love, but perhaps it can buy you happiness. The shop-till-you-drop, "retail therapy" culture may have become more dominant in the last few years, particularly in the US and UK, which have seen seven or eight years of solid consumer growth. But are we really any happier for it?

One person who thinks we are not is Robert Frank, a US economics professor whose new book, *Luxury Fever*, has been causing a bit of a stir in the States. He believes that we live in an age of "profound waste". The very rich spend their money on Carter watches, Lexus sports cars, Prada trousers and, at the top of the range, Gulfstream jets. Yet they are still dissatisfied. The world's industrial moguls are dreaming up yet more sophisticated objects for the new super-rich to buy (I heard the other day from a Gulfstream executive that they are looking at a supersonic executive jet that will fly faster than Concorde), to the general detriment of Western societies as a whole.

Of course, there is nothing new in this. A hundred years ago, the economist Thorstein Veblen drew attention to the "conspicuous consumption" of the rich, and the social damage it caused. More recently, in the Sixties, the British economic journalist Fred Hirsch identified "positional goods" - goods by their nature rare, such as impressionist paintings, or a Queen Anne house - and worried about the way in which the rich bid up the prices for them and so add to inflation.

Nevertheless the burst of consumerism in the US, which has pushed the saving rate into negative territory, gives a new bite to these well-rehearsed concerns, which is probably why Professor Frank's book has attracted such attention. His solution, insofar as there is one, falls into two parts. First, we should all try to focus attention more on "inconspicuous consumption", spending time with family and friends, going for walks in the country, being free from traffic congestion, and so on. Second, he believes public policy could help to shift this balance by scrapping income tax and imposing a progressive consumption tax on fam-



It's the lifestyle and not wealth that makes society girls like, from left to right, Tamara Beckwith, Annabel Elwes and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson seem so happy. Richard Young

ilies: the more they spent in any one year, the higher the tax rate would be. If additional money were raised, it could be used to fund government investment in public goods.

You don't need to buy the whole thesis to feel that there is something a touch distasteful about excesses of consumption. Not many of us would like to see a family consumption tax, particularly if it were used to fund public projects such as the Millennium Dome, but most of us would accept that it is the enormous rise in living standards of most people in developed countries over the last 40 years, people are not much happier as a result.

This common-sense judgement is supported by academic evidence. Economists now study happiness, trying to measure how happy people are and what makes them happier. Sadly for shopaholics, it seems that "retail therapy" is not particularly effective. It may have some slight effect: Warwick University's Andrew Oswald, a leading authority on the economics of happiness, found that between 1970 and 1990 there was a slight relationship

between wealth and happiness. But it seems that it is really only at the very bottom of the income scale that the amount of money people have influences how happy they are. Relative wealth, how rich people are compared with the people round about them, seems to matter more than absolute wealth.

The reaction of many people to this will be to say: "Hold on a moment, how do they know whether people are happy or not?" In fact it is possible to make some measurements partly by asking people whether they feel happy, but also by measuring things such as stress levels. You can also look at suicide and attempted suicide rates - apparently attempted suicide is much more common than is generally appreciated - and make some judgements from that.

So what do we know about happiness? One of Professor Oswald's latest findings is that in relative terms the young are becoming happier, which is great for the (relatively youthful) readers of this newspaper. Not so good news is the finding that all other groups are becoming less

happy. The unemployed tend to be unhappy, which is a powerful moral argument not just for encouraging general economic growth, but also for encouraging people into jobs where possible. And - a particularly troubling finding - it seems that black people are less happy than white people.

Any pointers to policy? If relative wealth were more important than absolute wealth, you might imagine that societies that are more egalitarian are happier than those that are not. But in fact that does not seem to be the case, either here in the UK or elsewhere. Thus international studies suggest that Japanese people are not particularly happy, despite the small income differentials there, while Brazilians are relatively happy despite their very large differentials.

So is there nothing that governments can do to make their citizens happier? Well, there is one very interesting study about to come out, by Professor Bruno Frey, of Zurich University. He has found that the more democracy there is - and remember that Switzerland is

strong on that - the happier people become. We cannot do anything about our age or our race, but if we become happier the more democratic control we feel we have, then that is something to hang on to. I suppose devolution could be justified as passing more democracy to Scottish and Welsh people, even if the latter have had a chapter imposed on them by Downing Street. Maybe Londoners will feel happier if they can vote for the mayor of their choice. And the way to make the English happier would, I suppose, be to remove Scottish and Welsh MPs from the Westminster Parliament, so that the English, too, would feel they had more control over their affairs. Um...

Given that any individual's control over the level of democracy is minimal, and given that spending money does not seem to bring more happiness, what should we all do to make ourselves happier? A couple of years ago David Lykken, a psychologist at the University of Minnesota, wrote a book called *Happiness*, in which he studied a large group of identical twins

who had been separated at birth. At the time he concluded that happiness was genetically determined: people were either born happy or not. "Trying to be happier is as futile as trying to be taller."

Now, according to a recent article in *The New Yorker*, he thinks he was wrong. People still have set points of happiness, but he believes, they can lift their level of happiness above those points by learning some new habits, such as keeping busy, taking regular exercise and, apparently, getting married.

I'm not sure what his advice would be for people who are already frantically busy, who go to the gym three times a week, who have been married for years, and despite all that are still profoundly miserable. However, put together his view that people can lift their happiness and the evidence that young people are becoming happier, and there may be a clue. We cannot, of course, become any younger, but we can perhaps think younger.

That, plus just a little bit of retail therapy, a few drinks, a few parties... doesn't it sound more fun?

The road to Iraq and ruin?



TUESDAY BOOK

IMPOSING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS:
A LEGAL REMEDY OR GENOCIDAL TOOL?
BY GEOFF SIMONS. PLUTO PRESS. £12.99

FOR MUCH of this century, sanctions have been a preferred instrument of the centre and left. In the Thirties they were favoured by advocates of the League of Nations against aggressor states; in the Sixties and Seventies as an instrument against racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia. Today, however, the tide has turned: there is a widespread sense, in the UN and elsewhere, that sanctions are being used to excess by the UN and, even more so, by the US.

Geoff Simons belongs to the anti-sanctions camp. His brisk history of sanctions highlights their cost, in war and peace, for civilian populations. Recent sanctions by the US - against Cuba, Libya and, above all, Iraq - are, he argues, both genocidal and illegal. They are intended to starve civilians, and, in Iraq's case, are voted in by a UN Security Council acting under coercion. Iraq is now a "concentration camp", reduced to penury and disease; a "new Holocaust" is in the making.

TUESDAY POEM

SNAPS
BY ROBERT MINHINNICK

After the rain the small rockpools
Glitter like a switchboard.
The girls wait by the photobooth
Until the card of snaps slides down the chute.
Impossible, they clutch themselves
And stagger, hurt with laughter
In a wild circle. All strangers these,
For whose face matches the idea of self,
That coveted identity, closed like a locket,
The first secret? They've snarled and pouted,
Hid themselves behind the mask of the absurd.
The images come glossy, wet,
Like something born.

This poem comes from Robert Minchin's 'Selected Poems' (Carcanet Press, £6.95)

that Simons denounces. It was Baghdad that, until 1996, refused all offers of substantial oil exports, because these would be under international control. It was Baghdad which last June refused all Arab offers of food and medical supplies.

Anyone reading Simons would think that there was a ban on food and medicine exports to Iraq - as the US has indeed placed on Cuba. No such ban exists. In December 1997, Baghdad imposed a 21-fold increase in the cost of the individual food ration, intending thereby to maximise the revenue it would receive from the sale of food supplies - and, arguably, to prolong the starvation of its people.

Claims that Iraq still lacks the means to provide a basic supply of food are belied by its other activities: the construction of palaces and large mosques, the clandestine import of weapons, the ostentatious lifestyle of the elite. Iraq is now entitled, under UN resolutions, to export \$10.5bn of oil a year, more than half of what it earned before sanctions.

That plus the considerable resources which Iraq has for agricultural production, should be sufficient to feed its population. Iraq has considerable agricultural potential: more than 20 per cent of its land area is cultivable, a higher percentage than that of China. Its wheat and barley output rose 15 per cent last year, enough to enable it to export to Syria and Jordan. There remain serious problems in Iraq because of the impact of five years of complete obstruction by the regime and its continued manipulation - and



Despite sanctions, vintage US cars keep Cubans moving. Gervin Lewis

a vindictive and cruel policy. However, sanctions played a significant role in forcing change in South Africa in the Eighties. Simons understates this, ignoring the impact of the US investment ban pushed through by the black caucus in Congress. One day, states may be liable to the imposition of sanctions for discrimination based on gender, as they once were for discrimination based on race.

Behind these discussions lies not the issue of sanctions, but the legitimacy of coercive behaviour by the more powerful states in the world. Coercive, discriminatory, selective they certainly are; but this does not mean that no such actions are ever valid. The internationalist activism that confronts Iraq is the same that bombed the Bosnian Serbs, may now act to protect Kosovo, and that seeks to try Pinochet. Recycled anti-imperialism is an insufficient response to the crises of the contemporary world.

FRED HALLIDAY

The reviewer is professor of international relations at the London School of Economics

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Baby Elephant by Philip Meech Ref. 00102

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Handel Evans

AS A young man Handel Evans faced the choice of two careers, music and art. His considerable gifts as a pianist and as a painter would almost certainly have guaranteed him success at either but, perhaps rather curiously for a Welshman, it was on the visual arts that he chose to focus.

Evans produced a large body of fine paintings, drawings and etchings. Though his reputation has still to be established in Britain, where he rarely worked and exhibited, he made a much bigger name overseas, especially in Germany, where his work entered significant collections. A memorial show will be held at the Korbach Museum from 26 March to 13 June.

Evans had long hoped for a significant exhibition of his work in Wales, and one somewhere in Britain is overdue for this most self-critical of artists. Solo shows at two London venues, Brown's Hotel in 1972, at the small Mario Flecha Gallery in 1982, and one at Clare Hall, Cambridge, in 1987, made modest impact, although his fine early drawing *Dandies, Head of a Welshman* was acquired for the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Handel Cromwell Evans - Cromwell was a family name - was born in Pontypridd, Glamorgan, in 1932. He studied painting at Cardiff College of Art from 1949 to 1954, where he was taught by David Tinker and Eric Maitland. His "mentor" was Clifford H. Lewis, at whose School of Music he also studied, eventually becoming licensee of the Royal Academy of Music. Lewis urged Handel's parents to sell everything if necessary to fund his study of the Alexander Technique, to improve his posture.

Evans inherited his artistic abilities from his parents. His father Joseph came from a family of singers, had a fine baritone voice and was a licensee of the London College of Music. His son was born on Easter Sunday, a few days before Joseph was to conduct a choir of 2,000 voices in the oratorio *Messiah*, by George Frederick Handel, hence the boy's name. A daughter would have been called Melba. Initially taught music by his father, Handel Evans passed his first musical examination aged four years and 10 months, so small that the examiner had to lift him on to the piano stool.

Joseph Evans had failed, in mysterious circumstances, to win a scholarship for his singing in 1934, prompting a nervous breakdown and a resolve "never to sing another note in my life". Instead he became an electrician with the British Overseas Airways Corporation, which enabled Handel to travel extensively at a concessionary rate.

After studying with Lewis, Evans concentrated on art and spent two years in the Caribbean (1959-61), where he taught for a while. Otherwise, he lived by his painting. A one-man exhibition at



Indigo Arches by Evans, no 59 in his series on man and technology *The Employees*, casein tempera, 1988



the Institute of Jamaica, in Kingston, took place in 1962.

After a period in Germany and Italy, Evans attended the prestigious British School at Rome in 1962-63. His mother, Marian, a designer and fitter for West End couture houses, made all Handel's clothes. For Rome, she remembers him asking for a new overcoat, in the style of one worn by Sherlock Holmes, "needed two days. I made it, and he wore it for years".

After further painting in the West Indies, London, Italy, the United States and Canada, and exhibitions in Jamaica (1964) and Barbados (Lyford Cay Gallery, Nassau, 1968), Evans spent 1975-76 studying etching with Stanley William Hayter at Atelier 17, in Paris. About this time he first met Eugene Garfield, founder of the Institute of

There is no greater affinity between man and nature than between man and machinery, which, after all, is man's own offspring

was commissioned to do a version of it in casein tempera, which he regarded then as a stylistic anachronism, but which, he told me, was eventually resold for about £50,000.

By this time Evans was well established in Germany, where he lived much of the time (he spoke excellent German) and where he had a string of exhibitions, beginning at the Kleine Galerie, Cuxhaven, in 1984. From the mid-1970s, the theme of man and technology had become important to him, and he pursued it at length, for example in his series *The Employees* and in *Interpenetrations*, the ambitious oil on canvas he completed for the Institute of Scientific Information in 1978-80, on which he worked in both the United States and England.

In the many variations on *The Employees*, tightly organised, asexual, faceless figures are painted in infinitely subtle colour gradations. Later in his career, Evans was further developing this theme with a series of whirling, rotating pictures and works related to musical notation. Handel Evans wrote that for him "there is no greater affinity between man and nature than between man and machinery, which, after all, is man's own offspring... I see them as mutually dependent, and meeting each other's needs".

DAVID BUCKMAN

Handel Cromwell Evans, artist: born Pontypridd, Glamorgan 3 April 1932; died Thanet, Kent 5 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

GRONAU: Carmen. Formerly of Sotheby's, Bond Street, died peacefully at home in Florence peacefully on 20 January 1999, aged 82. Her funeral took place at the Church of Santa Lucia, Fiesole, on 18 February. A memorial service to celebrate Carmen's life will be announced in the *Independent* when confirmed, much much loved and truly missed by all whose lives she touched.

MORRIS: Peacefully at St Andrew's, Friday 19 February 1999. Margaret Isobel (Peg), in her 81st year, formerly of 20 High Street, Eile, Fife. Dearly loved wife of the late Tom Morris and much-loved mother of Nick and Helen and grandmother of Oscar, Hugo and Laura. Funeral service in St Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Eile, on Friday 26 February at 11.30am. Interment thereafter in Kilconquhar Cemetery at approximately 12.15pm.

ANNIVERSARIES
Births: Samuel Pegs, naval official and diarist, 1633; George Frederick Handel, composer, 1685; Meyer Amschel Rothschild, banker, 1743; Gertrud Elisabeth Mara (Schmeling), soprano, 1748; Sir George Frederick Watts, sculptor and painter, 1817; Franz von Stuck,

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Bill Alexander, theatre director, 51; The Duke of Beaufort, art dealer, 71; Miss Pam Blundell, fashion designer, 32; Mr Jeremy Brooks, chairman, Price Waterhouse Europe, 60; Mr Jim Cousins MP, 55; Lady Digny, former chairman, Southern Regional Advisory Board, 65; Lord Ezra, former Coal Board chief, 80; Mr Peter Fonda, actor, 59; Mr Frank Gerstenberg, Principal, George Watson's College, 58; Miss Sylvie Guillem, ballerina, 34; Mrs Maureen Hicks, former MP, 51; Mr Nicholas Kenyon, controller, BBC Radio 3, 48; Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College, 57; Mr Anton Mosimann, chef, 52; Mrs Sandra Osborne MP, 45; Lord Tugendhat, chairman, Abbey National, 62; Mr David Ward, former President of the Law Society, 62.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend a reception for the Leprosy 75th Anniversary "Quest for Dignity" art competition at the Royal Geographical Society,

painter and sculptor, 1863; William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, novelist, 1868; Victor Fleming, film director, 1883; Karl Jaspers, philosopher, 1883; John Gilbert Winant, diplomat, 1888; Erich Kastner, poet and writer for children, 1899.

Deaths: Agostino Carracci, painter, 1602; Eugene IV, pope, 1447; Ferdinand V of Castile and Leon, 1516; Sir Joshua Reynolds, painter, 1792; John Keats, poet, 1821; John Quincy Adams, sixth US President, 1848; Joaquina Balleste, poet and playwright, 1851; Karl Friedrich Gauss, mathematician and astronomer, 1855; George Thomas Smart, organist, 1867; Auguste Bonheur, painter, 1884; William Butterfield, architect, 1900; Ernest Christopher Dowson, poet, 1900; Samuel Rawson Gardiner, historian, 1902; Francisco Idefonso Madero, Mexican politician, killed 1913; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th US President, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba (Helen Porter Mitchell), operatic singer, 1931; Sir Edward William Elgar, composer, 1934; Leo Hendrik Baeckeland, inventor of Bakelite, 1941; Paul-Louis Charles Claudel, poet, playwright and diplomat, 1955; Stan Laurel (Arthur Stanley Jefferson), 1957; Franz von Stuck,

comedian, 1965; Fannie Hurst, novelist, 1968; Laurence Stephen Lowry, painter, 1976; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, 1983.

On this day: the Cat Street Conspiracy to murder Cabinet ministers was discovered, 1820; lawn tennis, then called "Sphairistike", was patented, 1874; in France, Emile Zola was imprisoned for writing the open letter "J'accuse", 1898; the United States Steel Corporation was founded by J.P. Morgan, 1901; Benito Mussolini founded the Fascist Party (Fasci del Combattimento) in Italy, 1919; the present building of the Vaudeville Theatre, London, opened, 1926; Guyana became a republic within the Commonwealth, 1970.

Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander Akmates, St Boisl or Boswell, St Dositheus, St Milburga or Mildgytha, St Polycarp of Smyrna, St Serenus or Cerneus the Gardener and St Willigis.

LECTURES
National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Monet (iv): *Boats at La Grenouillère*", 1pm. Tate Gallery: James Heard, "Drawing the Body: from workshop to academy", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS
Mr Glyn Davies, to be ambassador to Panama. Mr Graham Boyce, to be ambassador to Egypt. Mr Bill Sinton, to be ambassador to Algeria.

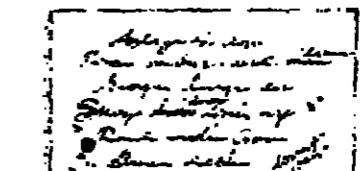
Mr Christopher Ingham, to be ambassador to Uzbekistan. Miss Linda Duffield, to be ambassador to Sri Lanka. Mr Donald Lamont, to be Governor in the Falkland Islands, and Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

LECTURES
National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Monet (iv): *Boats at La Grenouillère*", 1pm. Tate Gallery: James Heard, "Drawing the Body: from workshop to academy", 1pm.

annual meeting at the Imperial War Museum, London SE1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.



LITERARY NOTES

ANGELA LIVINGSTONE

A writer 'indescribable' and 'without forebears'

THIS YEAR is not just the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander Pushkin, "founding father" of Russian literature, but also the centenary of Andrei Platonov, a writer of genius who, for his contribution to the Russian literary language, has been compared to Pushkin himself.

When recently this column celebrated Jorge Luis Borges, born - like Platonov - in August 1899, the anomaly of Platonov's smaller fame cried out for attention: no 20th-century writer of comparable significance has been as neglected in the West. Yet, as Andrew Hurley said of Borges, "it is the prose, the writing itself, that blows us away". Joseph Brodsky, a great admirer of Platonov, called his books "indescribable" and "without forebears". He also called him "our first properly surrealist writer", although he "wasn't an individualist... his novels depict not a hero against a background but rather that background itself devouring a hero".

Platonov's style is altogether unexpected. When we read his 1929 novel *Chevengur*, and many of his stories, nearly every sentence comes as a shock - both a striking of the heart and an inexplicable elan. How is this done, and is it translatable?

Platonov is extraordinarily skilled at representing the thoughts of people with strong feelings but weak articulacy. He writes about people

living through the revolution, through "war communism", under Stalin, during the agonies of collectivisation and in the horrors of war. He writes especially about those who were bewildered by being lauded as "builders of the future" while oppressed by poverty and officialdom, or in whom a religious tradition of "truth-seeking" had

introduced as if inadvertently.

"He went away to an uncopied place, where people lived without help." Often, two nouns are poignantly compacted through a genitive case: "the curiosity of tenderness", "the prejudice of caution", "the alarm of space".

Platonov's closeness to work to machinery and to the countryside is manifest throughout his writing. One of 10 children, he worked as a railway mechanic, then as an agricultural engineer, before dedicating himself to literature. He wrote of the Soviet hope with unequalled subtlety, always considering himself a Communist, yet was soon rejected by the Communists, with his name vilified and his best work unpublised; his young son was arrested and died of tuberculosis in the camps. Platonov caught it from him and died in 1951.

In the Soviet Union much of Platonov's work was long prohibited; and little has been adequately translated until recently. All this is changing. Recognised in present-day Russia as belonging to the canon of major writers of the 20th century, he is now published, studied and celebrated there.

Angela Livingstone and Robert and Elizabeth Chandler are the translators of A. Platonov, "The Return and Other Stories" (Harvill Press, £19.99).

Employer was not vicariously liable

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

23 FEBRUARY 1999

Credit Lyonnais Nederland NV (now known as Generale Bank Nederland NV) v Export Credits Guarantee Department

House of Lords (Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Woolf, Lord Steyn, Lord Clyde, Lord Millert)
18 February 1999

part there was nothing unlawful in the issue of the guarantees, and the other acts he performed to assist Chong were not within the course of his employment or the scope of his authority.

The bank appealed on the grounds (i) that where an employee assisted in the violation by another of an individual's rights pursuant to a common design to that end, the employee incurred liability as a joint tortfeasor for the violation, and his employer incurred vicarious liability for the violation if the assistance by the employee was in the course of his employment; and (ii) that the bank was entitled to succeed because Pillai's own acts of corruption were themselves tortious because they were carried out with the intention of bringing about the violation of the bank's rights.

Jonathan Sumption QC and Richard Slade (Linklaters &

Paines) for the bank: Gordon Pollock QC, Jonathan Hirst QC and Graham Dunning (Clyde & Co) for ECGD.

Lord Woolf said that the principle on which vicarious liability depended was that the wrong of the servant for which the master was liable was one committed in the course of his employment.

The present case raised starkly the question whether, in the case of a joint tort, it was sufficient to make the master liable if the acts of his servant, for which he was responsible, did not in themselves amount to a tort but only did so when linked to other acts which were not performed in the course of the employee's employment.

The short answer to that question was that the actions of Pillai in the course of his employment could not be combined with the actions of Chong, which if done by Pillai would have been outside the course of his employment, to make ECGD vicariously liable for the consequence of Pillai's and Chong's combined conduct.

The submission that acts of assistance in connection with another's wrong became themselves tortious, if carried out with the intention of bringing about the violation of a third party's rights, was novel because it did not require those acts of assistance to be in themselves actionable wrongs. The only purpose for establishing the existence of such a tort was to make ECGD vicariously liable for Pillai's conduct, and that was not a justification for the recognition of a new tort. Kate O'HANLON Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

irk, v.

Johnson quotes Addison:

"there is nothing so irk-

"some as general discourses, especially when they turn chiefly upon words".

On the contrary, Francis Wheen, for one, happily confesses to using *irk* ("a very handy word"). Julian Barnes promises to use it in his new novel, and discourses: "Is Walsh perhaps turning a variant on *irk*? Not Edwardian, it's wartime naval slang." Perhaps this was a subtext to Ian Clark's sobriquet.

The Isle of Man has its own laws and a quirky way of life. But there's its serious side too - a £15bn tax-haven. By Jack O'Sullivan

It's not all cats and kippers

I f you are Manx, you feel different. Your Parliament is 1,000 years old; your ancestral language unintelligible to the English. Pounds notes survive, country roads have no speed limits.

On stamps, the Queen's head bears no crown, cats have no tails, and the Little People - Moonjies Veggey - are everywhere. Douglas's faded guest houses may recall Blackpool and the local accent sound Scouse, but this is a Celtic place. The Pagan Federation has just appointed a national officer from here.

Many are unaware of Manx distinctiveness. They imagine a bit of Lancashire floated west. But the island's creation story is more persuasive - Irish giant Finn MacCool fought a Scottish contemporary and flung a clod of earth towards him. It fell short into the sea.

You can see the difference the moment you arrive. This island is awash in spring flowers, thanks to the Gulf Stream, while Lancashire remains stuck in winter. White-washed cottages in Cregneash have a rare rounded thatch, tied at the eaves just as in Donegal. With their peat fires, they smell like Ireland.

Neighbouring England - known as "the adjacent island" - is awakening to this difference. Yesterday, the island's leaders met to discuss the implications of breaking away from the UK. The Isle of Man is a Crown dependency, outside the UK, but London remains responsible for "good governance" and foreign affairs. The Queen is "Lord of Man". This tiny statelet, ridiculed as

"60,000 alcoholics clinging to a rock in the Irish Sea", is seriously considering the details of going it alone - practical stuff like passports, where young people would attend university, and who would represent the island abroad.

This may sound as serious as a bunch of corps commissioners planning a Third World War. But they are in earnest. And the issue is not Gaelic romanticism. Long gone are the late-Seventies, when Manx extremists burned buildings under the banner "Financial Sector Fuck Off". Today's threatened rebellion is about money. In fact, about £15bn currently enjoying sanctuary from the British taxman. Threats via Europe to destroy this tax haven are behind a potential constitutional crisis.

The island bristles with shiny new buildings and household banks that underwrite Manx prosperity. From where brandy was once landed to beat the British blockade during the Napoleonic wars, Sun Life piles its offshore insurance business. The omens are poor. After Napoleon's defeat, the Duke of Atholl sold the island's sovereignty to George III for £70,000. The English killed off smuggling. The Isle of Man went bust.

Since the Eighties, the island has thrived on low tax, offshore finance, something the Germans oppose by championing tax harmonisation. The fear is that London's Labour government will do Berlin's bidding and stamp out this late flowering of Thatcherism. No one wants to go back to living off spuds and herring.

I'm sitting at Heathrow, awaiting

the morning flight to Douglas, the island's capital. The lounge is stuffed with corporate types, silenced by an announcement. The small aircraft is full, warns a voice. "Please check in all hand luggage as there may be no space on board." I spot businessmen clutching bulging briefcases. Which I wonder, is stuffed with tuners, all set for swift deposit?

Of course, I am imagining things. As the island's chief minister, Donald Gelling, reassures me upon arrival: "You could not go into a bank on the Isle of Man with a suitcase of money and open an account. Our banks are probably more strictly regulated than those in the UK." He is right. But the Isle of Man does have an unfortunate reputation. Remember that company found selling guns to Rwanda? Where was it registered? Ah yes. And the man recently disqualifed for having hundreds of company directorships? Where was he based? Ah yes.

But more damaging is the reality of low taxation, which can hardly appeal to Gordon Brown. The top income tax rate is 20 per cent. Likewise corporation tax. Capital gains and inheritance taxes do not exist. And no one need know your name if you register your company here.

So does the chief minister, Mr Gelling, favour independence as Britain flexes its muscles? "We will not be declaring UDI. I favour as much autonomy as possible without breaking the UK link," he says in his office, decorated with Manx pastoral scenes. Mr Gelling is the classic Manx leader, endlessly seeking consensus and compromise.

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Voice of truth

It had become one of cinema's most suspect devices, but in *The Thin Red Line* Terrence Malick restores the voice-over's critical value. By Adam Mars-Jones



Voices in the dark: clockwise from left: Ben Chaplin in Terrence Malick's mighty 'The Thin Red Line', Ray Liotta in Martin Scorsese's 'Goodfellas', Martin Sheen in Francis Coppola's 'Apocalypse Now' and Harrison Ford in Ridley Scott's 'Blade Runner'



Terrence Malick's mighty new film *The Thin Red Line* not only rehabilitates a director who hasn't released a product in two decades, it also plays its part in restoring the fortunes of one of the most distinguished elements of film language: the voice-over. Both Malick's previous efforts, *Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*, made use of this simple or not-so-simple device. It's legitimate to wonder whether he can even contemplate making a film without it, as if his most refined aesthetic effects required the base metal of spoken narrative.

It is as easy to write a sentence beginning with the word "I" as it is to start one with he or she, but a first-person film sequence is hugely laborious, and a whole first-person film is an experimental dead end. As literature envies cinema its sweep and dynamism, the rendering of externals, so films envy books their effortless access to what lies inside. When Alfred Hitchcock sets out to adapt *Rebecca* for the screen, he immediately comes up against the book's famous first sentence. His camera's movement is admirably eloquent, but by itself it can't persuade us that it dreamt last night it went to Manderley again; Joan Fontaine's bodiless voice must do that.

In life a voice requires a body, but in art it only implies one, as viewers of *Sunset Boulevard* have come to understand over

the years, when the world-weary voice that has been guiding them through the story turns out to come from the one impossible place, the water-filled lungs of the man whom we saw killed at the beginning of the film, and who has been floating ever since in Norma Desmond's swimming-pool.

Voice-over has become suspect for the same reason that it has always been attractive: its cheapness in the context of a remarkably expensive medium. Why the performers don't even need to synchronise their words with the movements of lips filmed months before!

No wonder that adding a voice-over to a troubled or incoherent project is so much preferred to the expense of reshooting — hands up *Apocalypse Now*, hands up *Blade Runner*. Even in films whose production schedule is blameless, voice-over can become a mannerism, a way of melting down book pages and spooning them over a film at the last moment, so as to replace what has mysteriously leaked away during the long process of adaptation.

Just occasionally, voice-over is an intrinsic part of the architecture of a film. One of the most striking moments in *Goodfellas*, for instance, comes when the hero's voice-over gives way to his wife's, and Scorsese is suddenly telling a woman's story — not previously a huge priority in his work. The film is unusual among Mafia films in not glossing over the complicity of the women, and if Scorsese had found a way

of ending the story in the female point of view then *Goodfellas* might have been a great film instead of a very good one.

Don Roos's recent *The Opposite of Sex* uses voice-over in a sophisticated way, by locating the point of view of the least likeable character: Christina Ricci has a whale of a time as the vicious, manipulative Deedee, gleefully overturning the conventions of genre ("I don't have a heart than

Adding a voice-over to a troubled film is so much cheaper than reshooting

gold, and I don't grow one later either"). Here the voice-over claims the privileges of the director, commenting acidly on other aspects of the film. She undercut a would-be-touching sequence of an abandoned lover moping by referring to the unfair influence of the sound-track. "It's just music... it doesn't make him better than me." She even demands and gets a split-screen sequence, so that the audience can look away from the spectacle of her giving birth ("Excuse me, but haven't we seen this scene a million times before?").

Deedee's voice-over quite apart from its large, disconcerting entertainment value, plays a subtle dividend to the film-maker and his producers. She acts not only as a

teasing filter but as a guarantee, a certificate of mainstream status. At least half the characters in *The Opposite of Sex* are gay men, and the film deals with such topics as gay teachers, vulnerability to blackmail and false accusations, gay men as fathers, Aids and bereavement. But as long as the point of view, as represented by the voice-over, is distanced from these issues — indeed openly sarcastic about them — a mixed audience can be protected from the suspicion that it is being exposed to minority entertainment, a film with an agenda.

The voice-overs in Terrence Malick's earlier films weren't sophisticated uses of the device; their peculiarity was that they were wan, deadpan points of view with no particular pointedness. Voice-over was used almost against itself, to suggest that people's insides aren't so very different from their outsides. Sissy Spacek's character was at least one of *Badlands*' leads, but the young girl, played by Linda Manz, was more a spectator of the entanglements of *Days of Heaven* than a participant. The narrative tailed off unsatisfactorily.

With *The Thin Red Line*, though, the disipation of a central focus is thoroughgoing and carefully calculated, and the use of voice-over is a major part of it. The genre of the war film habitually operates by making us care more for one group than for another, more for one soldier than for his neighbour. Malick's film resists this: the camera isn't enslaved by the progress of

a military engagement, but feels free to carress the landscape of Guadalcanal, swooping obsessively over long grass blowing in the wind. Heroism is distributed unpredictably among the men, and almost everybody in the film has a voice-over.

Malick's film is highly unlike the films to which it is fated to be compared. In *Saving Private Ryan* there is a moment after the opening carnage when some American soldiers simply execute surrendering Germans. It's courageous to include such uncomfortable material, though an audience that has endured the previous half-hour is unlikely to get too excited over violation of the rules of engagement.

The parallel sequence in *The Thin Red Line* is utterly opposite. After C Company have finally taken the enemy position, we see the Japanese not as military but as horribly individualised. Some are sick, some are demented, some resort to denial, meditating implacably and denying the conquerors any foothold in their reality. One American soldier squats beside a pile of the dying, waiting with his pliers to take their gold teeth. In this long, extraordinarily contemplative sequence, the viewer tastes defeat as fully as victory. And it is here that Malick deploys the most daringly eloquent of all his voice-overs, its source a dead Japanese face looking sombrely out from a wall of dirt, and asking with full posthumous authority: "Do you imagine your sufferings will be less because you loved truth and goodness?"

Peter Grimes

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Extreme noise terror

POP

COLD CUT/MASONNA
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
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"THE AIM of these sessions is to make you think. What the hell was that?" explained the inimitable John Peel at the end of his second session at the South Bank. That was indeed the question on all our lips at the conclusion of the Japanese noise terrorist Masonna's seven-minute performance. A gawky man with waist-length hair staggered on to the stage and fell on to a pedal that sent a whoosh of feedback crackling through the auditorium. Lying prostrate on the floor, he began tugging at a series of gadgets that were secreted all over his body like a terrorist's armoury, and emitted deafening noises that made your ears itch in protest. He lay twitching and pulsing about like livestock on the abattoir block, and shrieked into a microphone as if the apocalypse had arrived. He leapt up and whirled around in circles, wrapping himself up in electrical leads until he could no longer stay standing, and again resumed his position on the floor.

The imagination ran amok amid the chaos of Masonna's sound — marching soldiers, firing guns, screaming children, collapsing buildings — while the urge to abandon the show was ever-present. His philosophy seemed to be: why have the guitar when you can go straight to the distortion pedal? Who needs instruments if you've got feedback, and why bother singing when you can turn your lungs to a pitchless yell? This was heavy without metal, puny without posturing. If anyone embodied Peel's mandate, it was Masonna.

Coldcut provided a sensory overload of a gentler variety as they paraded their V-Jamming prowess. To the uninitiated, the VJ — or video jockey — is able simultaneously to mix audio and visual signals with a video-sequencing computer. As a result, the sampling, cutting and scratching of film and music becomes one and the same thing.

Film has long been an evil of dance culture, presented alongside laser shows and lollipops to tickle the senses of loved-up clubbers. But under the watchful eye of Matt Black and Jonathon More, film and music are presented in exquisite synchronicity. Watching a blue whale rising up from the sea and slapping the surface, we were practically drowned by the ensuing tidal wave. Their music drew on sources as diverse as *Dr Who*, *Tomorrow's World*, *Jello Biafra* and *Jhelisa*, but their orchestration of film was the last piece in the electronic puzzle. Coldcut have come a long way since their days with Yazz and the Plastic Population.

FIONA STURGES

Charm will get them everywhere

CABARET

THE NUALAS
THE DRILL HALL
LONDON



The Nualas: a cunning mixture of sternness and silliness

becomes fatally endearing.

They tell of their glamorous life in the fast lane, but are not too humble to sing (hilariously) of their infatuation with a Hollywood legend. And they brim with writing tips: "when there's a tragedy, you can always make a song out of it." The first half builds to a frenzied musical climax, with their friendly priest going awol on the piano, one Nuala giving great air guitar and another blowing the hell out of a recorder. It leads to the inescapable conclusion: The Nualas are the new rock'n'roll. You read it here first.

DAVID BENEDICT

A version of this review appeared in later editions of Saturday's paper

THE LATE critic Jack Tinker once wrote that he always liked to find a word to sum up what ever he was reviewing. The word for the cabaret act, sorry, Irish international super-group, The Nualas, has to be "daffy". Identically dressed in Day-Glo pink suede minidresses and (so we're told) life-saving girdles, the three songstresses are like a collision between the *Late Lunch* high priestesses of post-modernism Mel and Sue, and the Nolans — The Eamonn Andrews Sisters, if you will. Bounding on stage from behind a silver curtain, they introduce themselves for easy identification: "I'm Nuala, she's Nuala and she's Nuala." In fact, although all three are pitch-perfect and preternaturally happy,

it's easy to tell them apart. One wears early-Edina. Everage pointy Fifties glasses; another seems to have borrowed a pair from Su Pollard while the other must have stolen hers from Michael Nyman. That gives no clue to their ludicrously varied musical style but it does clue you in to their harking sensibility which creates bizarre songs which redefine the art of the non-sequitur.

Their success stems from a cunning mix of sternness with information about their "self-penned musical numbers" and rampant silliness. This allows them to rhyme "the Abbey" with "Punjabi" or "General Franco" and "Cimiano Bianco" while kicking up their heels — neatly shot in wet-look white

platform shoes, since you ask

— and doing the kind of interpretive hand movements beloved of bad TV specials.

It's fair to say that the likes of Barbra Streisand will not be rushing to record their songs.

Can you see her covering "Curly Kay", a wickedly mournful ditty about a girl with a cabbage for a head who donates herself to starving school chums and becomes a saint?

Or "Tragic Circumstances", about a worker in a fast-food joint who is yearning for a hip replacement? If their three

part harmonies weren't so secure

they would never get away with it, but once you succumb

to their charms, you're lost. As

a result, the in-between chat — often rather loosely handled —

Look on my work ye mighty and despair

OPERA

AKHNATEN
BATH SPA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

dant pomp and circumstance, there's so little action that it makes those plays by Racine on an antique theme look like *Die Hard* in comparison.

While there are enough parts in the orchestra, chorus and acting corps to justify a college production, what you in fact do with *Akhnaten* — given the lack of a Royal Opera House budget — must be a seri-

ous problem. Even the music, expertly directed by Roger Heaton, fails to supply a convincing answer. By the early Eighties Philip Glass was recycling what some might say was an already over-stretched resource, and as the eddies and nausea-inducing spirals of his style repeat and repeat, you begin to wish that the score came in a *Reader's Digest* condensed version. You could top two hours off the running time and not lose any music you hadn't heard before.

Given the opera's insistence on stasis, with hectoring

gestures replacing more usual means of expression, the director, Richard Storer, makes what he can of video projections as a source of much-needed animation. Comprising a series of short films made by students to fit into each of the three acts, the projections are often excellent, but lack the final polish that more time at the editing suite might have allowed.

On the few occasions when the score provided the high-art equivalent of a big production number, everything suddenly came alive, and the music was

punched out in bold, brassy phrases (with some excellent tuba parping from Rhodri Griffiths), that showed off the impressive talents of the orchestra. But after three-and-a-half hours (including two intervals), you were very happy to flee Egypt at last. That said, the bravery of the endeavour can only be applauded.

PHIL JOHNSON

Akhnaten continues at the Michael Tippett Centre, Bath Spa University College, until Saturday. Booking: 01225 875633

TWO YEARS ago the School of Music of Bath College of Higher Education, together with students from Frome Community College, put on a UK premiere performance of *Akhnaten*, Philip Glass's opera. It was a remarkable production of a difficult piece, boldly staged and beautifully sung and played. This year the same institution, now called Bath Spa University College, has turned the page to a UK regional premiere of the final work in Glass's "Portrait" trilogy of operas, a series that began with the

ROBERT HANKS ON TV

'Ray Winstone... a raging ball of baffled arrogance in *Births, Marriages and Deaths*'

PAGE 18

Boring. Boring. Boring

Everyone admires Millais' early portraits.

The National Portrait Gallery wants us to reconsider his later work. They're wrong. By Tom Lubbock

With some artists, late means late. It means the work of their sixties or seventies or eighties. It means old. But with John Everett Millais, late means anything after the age of 30. He had a remarkable career: One decade of early, and nearly four of late.

Millais was a child prodigy. In 1848, at 19, he became a founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and for about 10 years - from *Isabella* to *The Vale of Rest* - he did perhaps the best work of the movement. Then came the great apostasy. For the beady-eyed honesty of Pre-Raphaelite ideals he substituted a series of looser, old-masterly styles. He became successful and very popular: *The Boyhood of Raleigh*, *Bubbles*. He was the first painter to be knighted. He said he needed the money.

Now the standard, the established, the absolutely obvious view of all this, is that it was a change for the worse. No doubt Millais did need the money, couldn't afford to go on doing the sort of painting that took a day to fill a square inch; and it's good to recall how irresistible these pressures can be. But excuses go only so far. So far as his art was concerned, Millais might as well have been run over by an early locomotive in about 1860.

Any exhibition of Millais's painting, then, that pays equal attention to his whole career, is unlikely to be just a neutral survey. It's going to have a point to make. It will be venturing a reappraisal. And that's what it is with Millais: Portraits at the National Portrait Gallery.

Millais painted portraits all his life. In the early work, it was friends and private patrons who sat. Later he became the most demanded portraitist in England, and did a lot of public figures. In this show, the Pre-Raphaelite period is given only its chronological portion. So it's the later work, including *Disraeli*, Gladstone, Tennyson and Cardinal Newman, plus plenty of smart ladies and cute tots that dominates the exhibition. And we look for reasons. It can't just be a fad, surely?

Reasons are offered, but they're of a peculiar sort. The leaflet which every visitor gets with their ticket says this: "Millais's late career has often been interpreted as a selling-out of the Pre-Raphaelite values of his youth, and his mature works have suffered neglect. Yet, as the exhibition shows, these portraits were greatly admired at the time and, together, form an extraordinary expression of their era."

The contrast is remarkably

I don't quite take the force of that "yet" - but it seems to mean that, because the late work was much admired in its time, it's somehow become "unhistorical" of us not to admire it now.

Look to the show's catalogue and you'll find some equally curious lines of persuasion. The leading essay reminds us that people have deprecated late Millais for an awfully long time, implying - I think - that a revaluation must therefore be due. (No: the time for a revaluation is when someone provides grounds for one.) It then proceeds vaguely to impugn the motives of late Millais critics, suggesting that they were, and are, snobby or inverted-snobby aesthetes, resentful of the artist's worldly success and contemptuous of his popularity with a big public. (Suppose this were true; it would again say nothing in favour of the later work.)

The odd thing about this supposed reappraisal is its complete lack of revisionary zeal. It seems to have no particular love for the paint-

ing it would reinstate. It just feels, in an abstract, leisurely, open-minded, even-handed sort of way, that this long-standing preference for one lot of work over another is a rather unfair and unsymmetrical state of affairs; that taste should spread itself out more equitably and more respectfully.

Of course, this isn't explicitly said, but I can't detect any more positive argument for the cause. And, in its absence, the appeal to a sense of balance becomes quite paradoxical. The only way it can get us to feel the "unfairness" of late Millais' neglect is by contrast with the enthusiastic attention that's long been given to early Millais. But this enthusiasm it must also play down, lest it prove to be too infectious. In fact, the main problem with this reappraisal is not the specific case it makes for the late work, but its failure to see how good the early is. And to put this the right way round: the only reason we have for being interested in late Millais at all, interested enough even to be "unfair" to it, is a sense of loss and disappointment. Simply, late Millais is the promise of early Millais, wasted.

Now make the relevant comparison - say, *A Jersey Lily* (1878), a portrait of Lillie Langtry, actor and royal mistress. Like many of Millais's later sitters, she was a public celebrity, and you can get a bit of talk out of that. And I don't really want to be rude about this picture. It doesn't seem necessary. Who, passing it in a gallery unlabelled, would slacken their pace? What possible interest does it hold? It's a pic-

ture that's designed to deflect all but the most casual attention.

Everything is vague and mazy. Face, expression, gesture, texture of flesh, hair or fabric - it's without any sense of the particular.

Boring is the most prominent aspect of Millais's late work. You may say "stuffy" or "twee", but

then it's true to the paradoxical nature of this exhibition that it could make its case only if it excised the early work entirely - but then

nobody would want to go to see it.

It may seem odd that a show should be organised specifically to promote the cause of dullness. It may seem odd, too, that the arts, whose boast has long been that

they are among the most interesting things in the world, should so often be run by people who are clear-

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: KEIKO MUKAIDE

GLASS BREAKS. So the glass-maker Keiko Mukaide - born in Tokyo, now artist in residence at Edinburgh College of Art - must be credited with something akin to heroism for pioneering glass installations such as her *Glass Landscape Garden*. Its cascade of clear glass waves, moulded on beds of sand in the kiln, looks as if it is still molten.

She is a master of the kiln, which has become more popular among glass-makers than blowing, using it both for vessel forms and for installations that are virtuoso displays of the medium's versatility - and her own. Her glass can seem to fluctuate between liquid and solid, revelling in its translucence, or imitate the patina-covered opacity of a weathered rock.

Her latest installation, *Secret Garden*, shown here, consists of a field of up to 150 glass plants, over 5ft tall, planted in tress in ceramic pots. The pots of three can be bought individually and carried off for display in homes. The plants are lampwork - the blowtorch technique used by seaside glass sculptors - and each bulbous flower-head contains three bubbles full of water. She dreamt up a way of inserting cavities into the heads, each with a channel through which she injects water before sealing it seamlessly with molten glass. People wonder how the water got there. The plants are typical of her inventiveness.



Mukaide, 44, took up glass-making after graduating in design from Musashino Art University, Tokyo. She was taught to work a kiln in the Eighties by the British glass-maker Diana Hobson at Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle, USA - then graduated in ceramics and glass at the RCA in London. Glass gardens may sound like a Zen inspiration, but Mukaide says that although she still has Japanese taste, she feels she has cut loose from Japanese culture. The Scots, she says, have their own deep appreciation of water, rock, earth and light, and the movement of the wind. Like other glass-makers from abroad, she is captivated by the quality of light in the north of Britain. "It is lucid, clear, more sensitive," she says. "I can't wait for spring."

Both she and Hobson, who now works both in America and Britain, were shortlisted for last year's Jerwood prize for glass. Perhaps Mukaide's entry, her glass garden - the only installation shortlisted - broke too many conceptual boundaries to be prizeworthy. But she is adamant that glass has potential for public installations.

She has exhibited in Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Ireland, and the United States. Her work has been acquired by European public galleries as well as by the prestigious Corning Museum of Glass in New York and the V&A. Her first public installation will be craftily insinuated into the architecture of the Edinburgh Festival Centre, due to open this summer. It consists of two rows of water-looking, bluish-green glass tiles running throughout the building. They are tougher than ceramic building tiles. Mukaide says, "She moulds them in plaster in the kiln - beyond that, the process is a secret."

Other techniques of hers that push glass to its limits include fusing blown sections together with *pâte de verre* (glass paste), casting window glass in plaster moulds with added sand to produce the rock-like effect, and what has become a signature of hers: fusing strings of glass together in moulds to form wavy vessels.

Now, when she is on the verge of making a unique reputation as a glass installation artist, is a good time to acquire her work - especially a bit of one of her installations. Her *Secret Garden* will be on show at the Crafts Council Shop at the V&A (0171-589 5070) from 28 April to 6 June; price £185 per pot of three plants. Her pieces usually retail at between £180 and £3,000.

Another example of her installation work, *Lucid in the Sky*, inspired by Scottish sunlight, will be in a non-selling exhibition with Steven Follett titled *Domain* at the Fabrica Gallery, 40 Duke Street, Brighton (01273-778546 or 728339), from 17 April to 30 May. It includes a rainbow of glass fragments suspended on twine.

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THE INDEPENDENT



HEALTH



An unnatural harvest

Anxieties about GM foods may soon be overridden by GM cures. By Roger Dobson

The potatoes being fed and watered in a corner of a Cambridge laboratory are about to provide a bumper harvest. Nearly 2ft tall, and lush and green, with an abundance of tubers, the plants look like the run-of-the-mill *Désirée* potatoes that grow in thousands of back gardens and allotments across the country.

But these potatoes will never be boiled, roasted or fried, and in six months' time genetically changed tubers just like them will be eaten raw by a group of patients to give them protection against hepatitis B.

Several thousand miles away, in Mountain View, California, tobacco plants are producing a compound that's already being used to stop tooth decay in 100 or so volunteer patients in London. And in Wisconsin, 10 acres of genetically altered maize are being harvested not for food, but for an anti-cancer drug.

Crops like these are in the vanguard of the burgeoning health science of growing medicines and vaccines in plants by transplanting human genes or bits of viruses into them.

While controversy rages in Britain about the safety of genetically modified plants for eating, scores of other GM plants are already being developed to create products to prevent disease, cure illness and save lives. Biotech companies are growing drugs in transgenic plants such as soya and maize to provide treatments for conditions as diverse as cancer, the common cold, herpes, traveller's diarrhoea, stomach ulcers, cholera and hepatitis. Also being grown is a therapy to mop up the physiological effects of drug overdoses, and one group of researchers is looking at growing a new type of contraceptive pill in the tobacco plant.

The biotech companies claim that growing medicines like this is the way forward. It is relatively cheap, mass production is easy, quality control is assured, and infection risks are almost zero. Plant vaccines are eaten rather than injected, and they don't need to be kept refrigerated – a major advantage for preventive health care in the Third World.

"Supply is not a problem. If you want more medicine you just go out and plant a few more acres of corn or soya bean or whatever you are using," says Dr Vikram Parashar, who supervises several acres of anti-cancer maize on the plains of Wisconsin.

The technology behind this revolution in health care is relatively straightforward. Many transgenic plants have been engineered to produce antibodies to disease. Our bodies naturally produce antibodies in



From cornfields to cancer treatment: US scientists are developing genetically-altered maize for an anti-cancer drug David Hughes

response to attack by viruses or bacteria, but in some situations the infection is overwhelming and the body may be unable to recognise the invader as a danger.

What many biotech companies have done is to take a piece of human DNA carrying the genetic instructions for making a particular antibody and insert it into the cells of a plant. It becomes part of the DNA, which then gives instructions to the plant to grow the human antibody in its cells as if it were its own. If can then be harvested and turned into a tablet or capsule.

At Planet Biotechnology in Mountain View, for example, the DNA that codes for the production of an antibody that prevents tooth decay is put on to a tiny tungsten bullet and blasted with a high-pressure gun into the nucleus of tobacco plant cells. Transgenic plants are then grown, which produce large amounts of the human antibody

for tooth decay.

Dr Julian Marr, senior lecturer and consultant at St Thomas' and

Guy's Dental Hospital, who identified the antibody and worked with Planet on producing it in plants, says, "Four per cent of the population don't get tooth decay because they naturally have this antibody, but in the other 96 per cent the antibody response is not good enough to be effective... What we have been able to do is to get the tobacco plants to make large amounts of the antibody we are using on human trials both here and in America. We have a second trial in London starting later this year. Our earlier results on 100 or so patients have shown that when the antibody goes into the mouth as a wash or as a toothpaste it provides protection for up to 12 months against the bacteria that cause decay."

A similar production approach is being taken by Dr Parashar with the growing of anti-cancer antibodies in his transgenic maize. It's estimated that each acre planted will produce enough of the drug for about 2,000 patients, and clinical trials have already begun in America.

The idea with this antibody is that it identifies tumour cells and sticks to them, allowing delivery of targeted radiation therapy to try to kill them off. It's expected to be especially useful in dealing with cancers that have spread too far to be cut out by surgery.

"The antibodies are being used as targeting agents to deliver toxins to knock out the cells... Chemotherapy and radiotherapy cannot distinguish between tumour and healthy cells, but this antibody sticks only to cancer cells," says Dr Parashar.

In Britain, Axis Genetics in Cambridge leads the world in developing edible plant vaccines, including therapies for cancer, traveller's diarrhoea, cholera and hepatitis B.

Clinical trials on the Axis hepatitis B potato begin in America later this year, with about 20 patients. It may be given in raw potato form or made up into a tablet, and its success is measured by the levels of antibodies that are found in the blood of the volunteers before and after they eat it.

There is a conventional hepatitis B vaccine available, but it is very expensive. Our production costs would be much lower, and swallowing a vaccine is always going to be more popular than having an injection. Because it doesn't need to be kept refrigerated, it could make big inroads into dealing with the hepatitis B problem throughout the Third World," says Axis's chief executive, Dr Ian Cubitt.

However, it is the tobacco plant that remains the most popular among biotechs. A group in California is looking at using the plant to grow antibodies that would block pregnancy and in effect act as contraceptive pills.

Twenty years ago, any idea that the much-maligned tobacco plant could be a force for good would have been treated with scepticism. It is now being used to make at least 12 compounds designed to fight disease. Perhaps the greatest irony of all is that researchers in Virginia are now looking to transgenic tobacco to provide effective treatment for lung cancer.

Should I be a guinea-pig?

I HAVE recently been diagnosed with cancer of the colon and I have been offered the chance to take part in a trial of a new form of chemotherapy. But I have to agree to letting a computer decide whether I get the new treatment, or none at all. How should I decide what to do?

The doctors and researchers who plan trials of new cancer treatments are trying to discover whether a new approach is better than an existing one. If the trial that you have been offered is comparing a new treatment with none at all, it is because the researchers genuinely do not know whether the new approach is better or worse than none at all. So although it may seem that a computer is

determining any effective treatment, in fact it is choosing between two courses of action which are, as far as anyone knows, equally good.

If it becomes clear that the new treatment is better than none at all, the trial will be stopped, and you should be offered the new treatment.

Discuss this with the doctors who are caring for you. It would be unethical for a clinical trial to offer you something that is known to be second-best.

IS THERE any virtue in breathing the fumes of friar's balsam?

Friar's balsam is a concoction of seven different substances with wonderful names such as balsam of Peru, angelica root and Siam benzoin resin. It has been used for at least 500 years as an aromatic inhalation for colds, sinusitis and bronchitis.

I have searched the scientific literature and have been unable to find any research into its effectiveness. It is usually

mixed with very hot water and the combination of the fumes and the warm, moist air helps to liquefy mucus and other secretions in the nose and sinuses. Quite a few people have a skin allergy to balsam of Peru, and it is not uncommon to develop a rash on the face after inhaling friar's balsam.

I WAS a prisoner of war in the Far East and have been told of a condition known as strongyloidiasis which can remain dormant for many years. What are the symptoms?

Strongyloidiasis is a tropical intestinal infection caused by a tiny worm. It is possible to carry the infection for decades without knowing that you have it.

It can cause skin rashes, intestinal upsets and, occasionally, coughing, wheezing and lung symptoms. Blood tests and stool tests are used to make the diagnosis.

The symptoms of the disease can be very similar to the symptoms of a stomach ulcer.

Please send questions to *A Question of Health*, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he cannot respond personally to questions

Risk means exactly that

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

EVERY PATIENT who accepts treatment from a doctor tacitly accepts that it involves risk. That is what "consent" means. We expect the treatment to make us better, but accept that it may make us worse. On that understanding, trust between doctor and patient is built.

That trust broke down at the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent, which found itself in the eye of a media storm last week after *The Independent* revealed that ministers had ordered an inquiry into research there.

The story in *The Independent* provoked outrage from this NHS hospital Trust, particularly over the comparison drawn with the Bristol heart babies case. There is no denying that the disclosure of the inquiry, into an experimental ventilator treatment used on premature babies, raised acute difficulties for patients and staff at the hospital, who found themselves thrust unwillingly into the media spotlight. That is regrettable but it was, I submit, unavoidable.

In the same way the Bristol Royal Infirmary has also suffered, and will continue to suffer, as the inquiry there turns over the painful legacy of those babies who died after undergoing heart surgery.

Both institutions may fairly claim that they have been singled out for investigation, when the problems raised are common across the NHS. How many cardiac surgeons shock in their boots as they watched the events at the General Medical Council unfold during its inquiry into the Bristol case?

And now, how many doctors involved in medical research are thanking God and good

fortune for sparing them the meticulous examination which Professor David Southall, the consultant paediatrician who led the controversial ventilator study in North Staffordshire, is about to undergo?

The blighting of institutions that do much good work is a heavy price to pay. But both inquiries raise issues of critical importance to the conduct of medicine in modern Britain. And, despite the protests of the North Staffordshire Trust, the parallels between the two inquiries are early close.

There is a widely held, but mistaken belief that the three doctors involved in the Bristol case were found to be incompetent. They were not. They were convicted by the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council – which (as its name implies) is empowered to judge the conduct of doctors, not their competence – of allowing operations on babies to continue for too long, when they should have stopped following warnings from colleagues.

The GMC case focused on a high-risk group of 53 babies, of whom 33 died or were brain-damaged. Many would have

died anyway. James Wisheart, the senior surgeon, was also found guilty of misleading parents about the risks and, by implication, invalidating their consent to surgery.

In North Staffordshire, 122 babies were treated on the experimental ventilator; of whom 43 died or were brain-damaged compared with a control group of 122, of whom 32 died or were brain-damaged. Although the difference was not statistically significant, it was not good news. One question for the inquiry is whether the study was allowed to continue when it should have been obvious that it was having no benefit.

The third and most difficult question is whether proper informed consent was obtained from the parents. In Bristol, parents were given an exaggerated idea of the success rate of the surgeons, in order to persuade them to let the operation go ahead.

In North Staffordshire, it is alleged, parents were told that the new ventilator was the "safest, gentlest" option, by researchers apparently anxious to persuade them to take it up.

One major difference is that the North Staffordshire parents, unlike the Bristol ones, were being invited to participate in a trial.

The latest edition of the GMC's guidelines on consent, which was published last week, says that participants in such trials should understand that it is research, that the results are not predictable and that the researchers "must not put pressure on anyone to take part".

How these admirable principles are to be applied in the context of a study of premature babies who are born unable to breathe is unclear. Any parent, when told that their newborn baby may be about to die, is almost bound to give *carte blanche* to doctors to do as they think best. As Professor Richard Cook, a leading neonatologist at Alderhey Hospital, Liverpool, pointed out last week, obtaining consent in these circumstances is fraught with difficulties.

If the North Staffordshire inquiry can come up with some sensible answers in this area, then it will have served an important purpose.



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MEDIA

The battle for the broadcasting rights to football is in full pitch. Jonathan Miller considers the strategies of the two opposing sides

Pay up, pay up and play the game

In the grim Chancery Lane hearing room where the future of football broadcasting in England is currently being adjudged, the game is in roughly its 127th hour, with perhaps 300 hours left to play. The learned friends are in 4-7-3 formation (four junior barristers, seven QCs and three judges), and the spectator gallery has (except for your correspondent) emptied.

Chichester Rents is not one of your period courtrooms with red judges and resonating oratory but a large, low-ceilinged, open-plan office floor stocked with grubby civil-service furniture. The room is stacked to the ceiling with bundles and wired up for computers. The venue is usually used for complex fraud cases. The three judges preside from a small, unprepossessing dais. There are no wigs or gowns. It is all conducted in the dignity of fluorescent lighting.

Within this unpromising arena, the legal teams (players from all sides wearing a near-identical team strip of various subtle shades of grey and pinstripe) and a supporting cast of solicitors, locum economists, assorted experts and spin doctors, are playing for very high stakes. The case essentially concentrates on whether football clubs should strike television rights deals individually or be allowed to negotiate collectively, as they do now, under the umbrella of the Premier League (the current four-year deal between Sky/BBC and the League is worth £743m).

So far, the three judges (Mr Justice Ferris, deputy high court judge, the man with the whistle flanked by two lay assessors) have heard 40 witnesses, all of them called by the Premier League. The enormous witness list, including such luminaries as Ken Bates, the Chelsea Chairman, and David Dein, the boss at Arsenal, has been a big show of force by the league. Occasionally, there is a headline, such as: "Bates dismisses claims from 'couch potato' fans that it is too expensive to attend games."

More often, the league, which has the burden of showing that its conduct is in the public interest, has played a traditional England strategy: kicking arguments up the field and hoping that some of them will get through.

They are defending a tidy little arrangement in which, if the OFT prevails, the Premier League has the most to lose and in which the fans, currently limited to a strict ration of television determined by



Conflicting views: David Mellor, top, and John Bridgeman

Club, the biggest team in the league. The MMC report is due on 12 March. Bridgeman, a Welsh-born former aluminium company executive whose academic training at University College Swansea was in chemistry, not economics has never the less proved a tenacious opponent. Since his appointment to a five-year term as director-general in 1995, he picked up on an open OFT investigation of the Premier League that began in 1992, at the time of the original deal with Murdoch and the BBC. "Any other business acting in this way would be subject to competition law and I see no reason why the selling of sports coverage should be any different," he said after taking office. A brave position: football is free with abuse and Bridgeman has become its *bête noire*.

Mr Bridgeman's case is that the League and the Broadcasters are acting as a cartel responsible for inflating costs and prices. The result has been to put BSkyB in a dominant position in the supply of sports channels in the UK, and to inhibit competition in the pay-TV market in which premium sports programming is the main driver. The result, for the fans, is that many find it impossible to get a ticket to a sold-out stadium. Nor are they able to follow their team regularly on television. Only 60 of the 380 Premiership games are broadcast live on BSkyB; the highlights of only three games are available to the BBC's *Match of the Day*.

In fact, there are cameras recording the action at all of the Premiership grounds; it is simply that viewers are not allowed to watch a case goes to court.

The Premier League's case is that this is good for us and that there is no scope for variation. It is their claim that any more football would destabilise the competition of the Premiership, forcing weak teams to the wall and strengthening the top

clubs, the biggest team in the league.

Instead, while Britain's top grounds are 94 per cent sold out on a typical Saturday and with waiting lists of years for tickets, most fans are reduced to watching Sky Sports Centre, in which sports journalists and superannuated footballers watch games on closed-circuit, and describe them to viewers who are not allowed to see for themselves.

The Premier League's case is that this is good for us and that there is no scope for variation. It is their claim that any more football would destabilise the competition of the Premiership, forcing weak teams to the wall and strengthening the top

teams to the extent that they could not be challenged. Only through the collective selling of rights, and benevolent distribution of the proceeds by the league itself, the league insists, can the clubs and sporting competition be sustained.

The stakes are high and, with the advent of digital television, likely to grow dramatically greater. Of the current four-year, £743m contract, BSkyB pays £670m for the right to broadcast 60 games live with some highlights, and the BBC pays £73m for the right to broadcast highlights.

This arrangement appears to suit BSkyB, the BBC, and the Premier

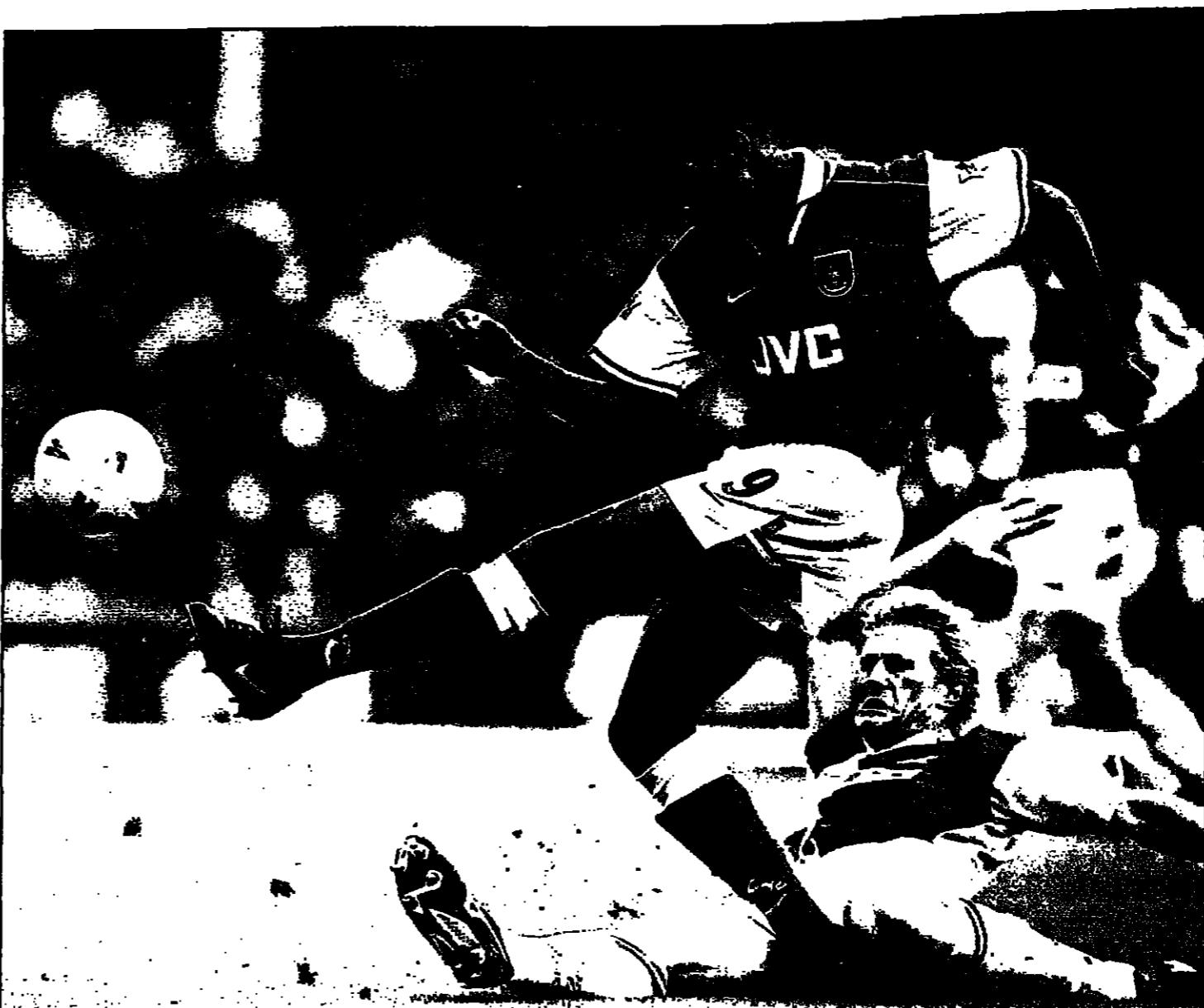
League rather well. Bridgeman's case is that more games could be shown on more platforms by more broadcasters. He argues that there could be both more regional choice and, in particular, that games could be made available on a pay-per-view basis to fans who would otherwise have no opportunity to see their team – in effect, an additional, electronic, digital, TV turnstile at every Premier ground.

Once in a while, reporters show up, last week, to record the cameo of David Mellor, BBC Radio Five Live sports presenter and head of the Football Task Force, to which job

he was appointed by his fellow Chelsea supporter, Tony Banks, the New Labour Sports Minister. Mellor spoke not as chairman of the Task Force, a quango which claims to represent the interests of fans, but merely as the holder of a £2,500 executive season ticket at Chelsea. "I have my own views, but not out of line with fans' opinions," he said.

Mellor's performance got good headlines. He affected exasperation at the impotence of the Office of Fair Trading. He told the OFT's lead QC, Geoffrey Vos, that critics of the current arrangements "didn't know what they're talking about". The notion that income from television rights could be otherwise distributed was "a presentational refuge point you've taken which is not convincing". Other arguments, though, may finally prove more persuasive.

Over the next few weeks, the Court is to hear witnesses called by BSkyB and the BBC, as well as expert witnesses called by the OFT. Dependent on the results of the MMC inquiry into BSkyB, the parallel OFT case could see a changed geometry. Among the significant forthcoming witnesses could be Michael Grade, a Charlton Athletic fan but also a professional broadcaster who knows what it is like to be cut out of a cosy cartel. This could be Grade's chance to play a blinder, with an imaginative, argumentative dribble to the mouth of the goal. He could find himself winning the cheers of the crowd, even Arsenal fans, if he could offer a way to let more supporters get a look in.



Albert Cooper

The battle to rule over the airwaves

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading's assault on BSkyB and the Premier League is only one of a number of regulatory battles being fought out in the communications industry at present. Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, is looking at how telephone carriers charge each other to use their lines into peoples' homes and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is yet to judge on BSkyB's bid for Manchester United. The most interesting battle isn't between regulators and companies, but between different regulators to see who

will be communications supremo. Evidence of this was seen three weeks ago when the *Financial Times* ran a front page story about how the Independent Television Commission was opposed to BSkyB being allowed to buy Manchester United. The purchase of the Reds is nothing to do with the ITC, but is evidence of how it is trying to prove itself as a financial regulator. The story almost certainly emerged from a series of lunches held by one of the ITC's most senior staff, with journalists to put their case for its competence as an economic

regulator. The Government has published a Green Paper asking for views on the future of telecoms and television regulation. With the development of interactive services, cable television companies that are phone companies and Internet access through the TV screen, it seems increasingly strange to have separate regulators for what is increasingly the same business. But this is not how the ITC sees it and the ITC is scared of being squeezed out by Ofcom – hence its ham-fisted intervention in the United deal. It wants to prove it can work with the other

regulators and has already flexed its economic muscles. It ordered the cable companies to unbundle some programme packages to stop viewers having to subscribe to large packages of channels. "That gave the ITC balls, especially when they were sued by Flextech and the Sci-Fi Channel, but won," says one senior media analyst.

Since then, the ITC has

submitted its response to the Green Paper outlining a case for the status quo, with the ITC, Ofcom and the OFT working together when they need to – as they did when BSkyB was kicked

out of the bid for the digital terrestrial multiplex.

The ITC believes the cultural and political importance of television means it cannot be regulated in the same way as people sending computer data down a phone line. The whole affair is as dry as dust to the outside observer – but given that the words television, monopoly and regulation inevitably seem to appear in the same sentence as Rupert Murdoch and BSkyB, the outcome of this boring battle could be very interesting indeed.

PAUL McCANN

Police and local press collide

ANALYSIS

PAUL McCANN

to protect the right to receive details of every bang and shunt, but criminal cases can slip past us if we don't have the identity of the driver to watch out for when a case goes to court."

The Gloucestershire force later amended its rules so that criminal cases could be released to journalists, but local editors don't believe that that instruction has been passed down the line to all police officers and press officers. A system giving accident victims an identity number, which could be used for condition checks at hospitals, has been rejected as too slow and imprecise to suit newspapers' requirements: "Who wants to read about a severe concussion that may or may not be a young man or an old woman?" asked one reporter on a local paper in the county.

Gloucestershire's initiative was followed last week by Cheshire police, again to howls of outrage from local editors. Cheshire decided to hold back not only the identity of car crash victims, but also most de-

tailed push the police back to a policy of openness: "More local newspapers should take a stance if the police attempt to cut off the supply of information. The advantage at this paper is that it is part of an independent company, so I was able to make the decision to put the story on the front page."

However, recent legal developments mean that editors may be fighting a losing battle to keep some of these traditional sources of news. The Association of Chief Police Officers' media advisory group is currently engaged in drawing up new guidelines for local forces' dealings with the media.

ACPO believes that the passing of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, with its clause on a right to privacy, means police forces would be breaking the law if they gave out the identities of victims of crimes and car crashes. The updating of the Data Protection Act last year has also meant that the Data Protection Registrar is in a

stronger position to tell police forces not to give out details of victims who have been entered on to computer records, and accounts of incidents.

The Data Protection Act has always applied to police forces and victims of crime, but has been ignored up until now. Some in the media believe that the police's desire to obey it and the Human Rights Convention to the letter is symptomatic of a freezing of relations between police and press. "There is growing reluctance to help out when you are writing a background piece," says one member of the Crime Reporters' Association. "You feel that the police fail to understand why journalists have any right to any information at all."

On the other side of the argument, Elisabeth Neville, chief constable of Wiltshire, made a speech last year to the Guild of Editors telling of a man whose wife and two children had been killed in a car accident. When he got home, he found a pack of reporters trying to get quotes. Given the power of the law, and the power of such emotive tales, some traditional newsroom practices are likely to be on the way out.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

NOT CONTENT with his column in *The Sun*, satellite TV show and radio programme, Richard Littlejohn is making a bid for a new career. He was at Radio 5 Live, broadcasting his sports show last week, when time came for the news. Unfortunately the newsreader was late, so Littlejohn took over. While reading a claim made by the Prime Minister that the previous government was to blame for something, Littlejohn ad-libbed his own opinion: "Well, he would say that, wouldn't he?" If it was possible for an organisation to faint, the BBC would have done just that. A producer rang Littlejohn's agent, Alex Armitage, to remind him that

newsreaders are not allowed to make politically biased asides. Mr Armitage reminded the BBC that Littlejohn charges for newsreading and might be sending an invoice.

JUST IN case Planet Hollywood is too tasteless for your kiddies and the Fashion Cafe not naff enough, news comes of a new themed restaurant

stickman. It might be basic, but it gets its point across.

THE LAST time *The Sunday Telegraph* grabbed the headlines was when its editor Dominic Lawson was named as an MI6 spy (a charge he vigorously denied). With its leaked account of the report into Stephen Lawrence's murder, his paper is the centre of attention again. Which is more than can be said of Mr Lawson, who is just over halfway through a two-week holiday.

BY FAR the most comprehensive website on the Internet devoted to Rupert Murdoch is that created by Fans Against Rupert's Takeover (Manchester United fans, that is), which goes by the charming acronym *Fartaf* (www.infonamibia.com/fartaf). One of its offerings is "Hang Rupert", a game that borrows heavily from Hangman, using the Dirty Digger in the place of the

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Tortured for refusing to reveal my sources

IT IS now four weeks since my release from military detention following our article on 10 January 1999, headed "Senior army officers arrested - alleged coup attempt foiled".

The question I am most often asked is whether I regret having published the story given its aftermath. My answer is "No". Without going into details that are *sub judice* at this stage, it is important for me to mention that during the entire period of my incarceration, my interrogators emphasised that they were not interested in the rights or wrongs of the story; they were not even saying it was false. All they wanted was the source of the article. I asked whether, since the Minister of Defence had said that the article was entirely fictitious, they would want us to print an apology and retraction, as is normal journalistic practice. Again they said that they did not want to hear about the minister or his details, nor did they want any apologies - just sources.

The violent reaction from the



Mark Chavunduka, editor of Harare's 'The Standard', was arrested by military intelligence as part of a clampdown in January. Here, as he awaits trial, he examines the difficulties on reporting in Zimbabwe

state is a nightmare that awakens me to the fact that Zimbabwe has not yet entered the era of moral civilisation, and that all the treaties that have been signed since independence in 1980, enshrining the rule of law and the upholding of human rights and the constitution, are not worth the paper they were signed on.

There are a number of legal instruments which the government can, and has, invoked against those it sees as wayward journalists and publications.

Many of them are relics from the pre-independence years, and when Robert Mugabe's Zanu PF came into power in 1980 the repeal of these laws was cited as a priority. However, they have realised that

these Draconian laws can come in

handy, and they have remained on the statute books.

Among these is the all-embracing Official Secrets Act 1970. This open-ended piece of legislation has made it difficult for journalists to investigate cases of corruption within the government. There is also the Privileges, Immunities, and Powers of Parliament Act, which makes it an offence to refuse to be examined before, or to answer any question put by, parliament, or by a committee of parliament, to refuse to obey an order of parliament, or to publish the proceedings of a committee of parliament before the proceedings have been reported to parliament itself. This law was invoked against two private media journalists in 1992.

Worst of all is the Law and Order Maintenance Act. Among its long tentacles, it is a crime to bring the President, the government or the constitution into contempt; to promote feelings of hostility or to expose to contempt, ridicule, or

any false statement or rumour that is likely to cause public alarm and despondency.

It is under this legislation that we are being charged. With such a wide array of laws lined up, the difficulties of reporting in Zimbabwe are evident. There are no special laws whatsoever to protect the media, or to grant it access to information. Through various forums convened by organisations such as the Zimbabwe Media Council, the Media Institute for Southern Africa, the Commonwealth Press Union and others, there have been attempts to press the government to amend laws that infringe upon press freedom. Up to 18 months ago, there appeared to be progress, with the government agreeing in principle with the media on certain consti-

tutional changes. However, in the last few months there has been a dramatic about-turn on the part of the government. The Information Minister, Chen Chimutengwende, now speaks of tightening laws governing the media, and the Home Affairs Minister, Dumiso Dabengwa, told a funeral gathering in Bulawayo soon after our arrest that the government is to introduce new laws to ensure that there are no bad reports about the military.

Obtaining information from official sources has become more difficult, with growing hostility between the private press and the government in the last year. Mutual suspicion has grown out of a number of factors, among them the exposing of corruption within the government. Requests for clarification or comments are more often than not refused. Once papers publish the stories, often a rebuttal or denial is given by the government through the state-owned media, rather than through the publication which published the article. In our own case, every effort was made to

obtain comment from the army, the police and the department of state security. No comment was given, but one day after *The Standard* hit the streets, the Defence Minister was on the state-owned television and radio denying that there had been any attempt at a coup.

The recent events have left me badly shaken, but have strengthened my and my colleagues' resolve to continue fighting for the truth. In doing this, we are alive to the fact that we are dealing with a government which is at its most dangerous: a government that is very nervous about the political mood in the country, one that is acutely aware that next year's elections could mark the end of the 18-year honeymoon, and one whose worst fear is that it may be asked to account for many years of corruption, chicanery and worse.

The situation at the moment is still fluid. We still have to stand trial, and there are several factors that may come into play. But, at great risk to ourselves and to our families and friends, we stand strong.

As laddism wanes in the UK, its magazines are storming the US - but with a wary eye on the nipple count. By Claire Atkinson

New Lad takes on the New World

The lessons to be divined from James Brown's premature exit from the editor's suite at *GQ* seem straightforward enough - describing Rommel as the height of mid-20th century chic comes a close second in the bad taste stakes to trussing up a topless Asian model and plunging her in a bath of blood. These were not the finest moments in the history of British men's magazines, and Brown has paid for them and other occasional lapses during his 18 months at *Condé Nast*.

Condé Nast are already talking about taking the magazine back upmarket to restore some of the intellectual credibility it enjoyed under Michael VerMeulen and Angus MacKinnon, and establish a better balance between nudity and new writing. As for the rest of the market, well, Brown's dramatic (if temporary) departure and the gradual arrest in the development of *FHM* and *Loaded*, are combining to provoke a rethink about the wisdom of cover-to-cover babes and breasts.

There is a fabulous irony at the timing of all of this. Namely, at the precise moment when Britain's ardour is cooling, America is enthusiastically embracing laddism. In magazine form, at least.

The US version of *Maxim* magazine is the fastest growing title of its kind and is redefining the men's market in America as *Loaded* once did in the UK. Set up in New York two years ago under the banner "sex, sports, beer, gadgets and clothes", its guaranteed circulation has risen from 175,000 to 950,000



Ex-'GQ' editor, James Brown

according to figures out last month. With Emap looking to launch *PEIM* and IPC surveying the possibilities for *Loaded*, *New Lad* looks to be finding a home in the New World.

In an example of machismo straight from its own pages, Lance Ford, group publisher of *Maxim*, says: "We are now twice the size of *Details* and a third larger than *GQ*." But he concedes: "They are ahead of us in ad revenue." This is because conservative American advertisers

are of course, cultural

differences that *Maxim* has had to take into account. As Glenda Bailey, the British editor in chief of the US *Marie Claire*, explains: "In the US, when *Cosmopolitan* pictured a girl with long hair which covered up her dress and made her look like she was naked, Wal-Mart decided to take it off the shelves."

So *Maxim* has covered up the nipples and promises rather less than it delivers in the UK. Yet despite American conservatism, Bailey says the size of the market offers publishers the chance to expand beyond



The reason why English publishers are invading the US is simple: it is five times the size of the UK market

their wildest dreams. *Marie Claire* is up 22 per cent for the last six months of 1998 and she says its owner, Hearst, has plans to bring other titles across the pond.

The most recent British arrival on US turf is Peterborough-based *PEIM*, which became the first UK company to acquire a major US magazine house. It paid \$1.5bn for the special interest publisher Petersen, and now Emap wants to bring its hugely successful and fourth largest English magazine in the world, *PEIM*, to the largest English speaking magazine market. As well as IPC's deliberations over *Loaded*, Northern and Shell is near to launching Stateside its celebrity

model and that is why a lot of Brits are reacting to *Maxim*.

Time Out, *Loot* and the BBC have all been here some time. *Marie Claire* is up 22 per cent for the last six months of 1998 and she says its owner, Hearst, has plans to bring other titles across the pond.

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model and that is why a lot of Brits are reacting to *Maxim*.

But as Her Majesty's subjects Tina Brown, Liz Tilberis and Glenda Bailey can testify, the British do have some unique skills to offer. "The Brits come with a down-to-earth approach to magazines, with creative skills and great editorial ideas," says *Maxim*'s Colvin, while Tony Elliott says the British are just more independent minded.

Chris Anderson, who has built his PC games business into a company turning over \$70m annually, explains the reason for the rush of British publishers simply enough: "America is five times the size of the UK market; when you make it big, you really make it big."

Just go easy on the Rommel and the blood baths.

Father and son team score on the Internet

When an old-fashioned newspaper man turned to new media, it ended up as the best move he ever made. By Darius Sanai

WHEN YOU first set eyes on him, Greg Hadfield seems an unlikely Internet guru. A laconic 42-year-old Yorkshireman, he rose up through the ranks of Fleet Street with a reputation as a tough old-fashioned and rather obsessive "newspaperman".

In a distinguished 19-year career in newspapers, Mr Hadfield absorbed himself in jobs that owe little to new technology: news editor and assistant editor of *The Sunday Times*, chief reporter on the *Sunday Express*, senior reporter on the *Daily Mail*, education correspondent of *Today*.

Now one of the country's most successful online entrepreneurs, he contentedly predicts that he will never work in newspapers again. Mr Hadfield, together with his son Tom, are the creators of Soccernet, the most successful football website in the world, and one of the most innovative of all online ventures. Soccernet, which costs nothing to visit,

gives instant access to football scores, results, developments and matches from around the world. It includes clever innovations, such as a Java-based "cheer" which goes up to alert you every time your team scores a goal. The two-man operation in Brighton, with the services of a small office in London, attracts 75 per cent of its visitors from overseas, including tens of thousands of "hits" a day from the US. On big match days, it attracts up to a million page views a day.

Unlike many other Internet enter-

prises, Soccernet makes a profit from selling advertising space, and from its merchandising operation.

The service started in 1995, when Tom Hadfield launched a home-

site. "Until then I was just dealing with it as if it were a journalistic enterprise," he says.

Mr Hadfield kept his day job, Tom stayed at school, and it wasn't until October 1996, following the site's success during the Euro '96 tournament, that Greg felt confident enough to resign from *The Express*, his then employer. He struck a deal with Associated, which brought him and Tom a six-figure sum for their stake in Soccernet, with another similar sum for running the website over the next four years. Ever since, Greg has worked 20 hours a day, seven days a week, with four days off in the last year.

Mr Hadfield says that they sold out their stake to Associated because

without their resources it wouldn't have been able to thrive."

But not everyone agrees. "Greg sold himself short," a friend and former colleague says. "He could have got a million for Soccernet in 1996."

This is possibly true - the com-

pany is valued at £2m to £3m now. But Mr Hadfield replies: "Even if it is true, we couldn't have gone anywhere without their resources."

Whatever the truth, it seems to have galvanised the Hadfields who, under the banner GHM (for Greg

Hadfield Media) have just launched a schools advisory service called Schoolsnet, which Mr Hadfield says "will be even more successful". Schoolsnet, which Mr Hadfield, who still edits *The Sunday Times* state schools guide, is ideally qualified to run, is still at an embryonic stage, but the opportunities for advertising revenue are enormous, with a potential audience of countless parents keen to find the latest inspectors' reports on schools.

Mr Hadfield works from home, and father and son have spent almost every evening together for the past three years. "I never used to see my dad before," Tom says.

Mr Hadfield claims that he is not a natural entrepreneur. "I'm learning," he says. "I spent too much time being a wage slave. This is the most fulfilling thing I've ever done,

but if I'd spent another two or three years on newspapers, I don't think I would ever have taken the step."



Andrew Hasson

and son

NEW FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, Willem Dafoe
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

HOLY MAN (PG)

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum
Redemption time! Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scuzzball executive on a home-shopping channel. Eddie Murphy is G, a spiritual wanderer with open sandals and an idiot-savant simper. G and Ricky hook up, fearful for his job, Ricky uses G as a frontman on the shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons: you know, about life and stuff. *Holy Man* is a film of bits and pieces. Parts of it (the satirical swipes at trash TV, for instance) are very funny, while Murphy and the wired, neurotic Goldblum in particular, both do well in fleshing out what are essentially one-dimensional, archetypal roles. The trouble is, the film never quite hangs together. It skips around trying to find the right tone; starts out as an attack on media-land, then pulls its punches. It runs worryingly out of steam. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

Director: David Kane
Starring: Douglas Henshall, Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Ian Hart, Emily Woof, Catherine McCormack
A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. The plot is airy and simple: six disparate middle-youth types cross each other over a period of three years; their bungled bed-hopping and snatched moments of human contact score to a voguish pop soundtrack (*Garbage*, *Mccheese*, *Mercury Rev*). Hart excels as a nerdish outcast, Burke as a nurturing, rough-diamond pub singer. All are well-served by Kane's generally witty and well-observed screenplay. It's just that *This Year's Love* doesn't quite know when to quit, cranking what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy little boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifl is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant Z who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (0)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new satire is a blast: crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, too. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG)
So how bad is *Don't Go Breaking my Heart*? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of ER's Anthony Edwards as a Yankee sports therapist in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This arthritic weepie wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teeming backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Rizzo, Carrie Mullan) unwillingly in tow. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Foll-throats playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustain Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: Curzon Soho. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Essentially this is Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brocure visuals. With Whoopi Goldberg. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

An excuse for remonias, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Virgin Fulham Road

JACK FROST (PG)

Out-of-season Yuletide tale. Michael Keaton plays a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. *The Full Monty's* Mark Addy co-stars as his best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's magnificently bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG)
Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (right) head a multi-star cast.

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The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan). To 27 Feb

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A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Anat*, this animated feature spins another enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

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16/LISTINGS

KULBURN
TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) \oplus Kulburn How to Cheat in the Leaving Certificate 6.30pm. Sunset Heights 8.45pm. Us Boys/The Gamble 4pm.

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Little Voice 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.10pm.

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) \oplus Highgate A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm Madeline 12.05pm. Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm. 8.30pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 3.45pm.

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye A Bug's Life 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm. Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.55pm, 7.25pm. Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm. 9.05pm. Madeline 12.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm. 8.30pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 3.45pm.

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimbledon \oplus South Wimbledon A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. 8.50pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. Jack Frost 4.20pm. The Opposite of Love 2.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.10pm.

WILLOW HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. Jack Frost 4.20pm. The Opposite of Love 2.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm.

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimbledon \oplus South Wimbledon A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. 8.50pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. Shakespeare in Love 12.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm. 8.30pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 3.45pm.

WILLOW HALL
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Elizabeth 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm.

WALTON ON THAMES
THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; times include intervals. \oplus Seats at some prices \ominus Returns only Matinees — [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat.

■ ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Gray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Joyce Lawrence. Gielgud Shakespeare Avenue, W1 [0171-494 5065] \oplus Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-E3.50, 160 mins.

■ AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 [0171-928 761 5/6c 420 000] BR: Waterloo. The Truman Show 11am, 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-E30, 180 mins.

■ ANNIE Rags to riches story of the orphan. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 [0171-834 777] BR: Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £12.50-E17.50. 140 mins.

■ ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, WC2 [0171-369 1732] \oplus Leic. Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, 9.30pm, [4] 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm.

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place, SW1 [0171-838 2144/2145] Marie Balie des Anges (NC) 8.30pm.

ICA The Mall, SW1 [0171-936 3647] Foreign Land (Terra Estrangeira) (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, Des Nouvelles du Bon Dieu (18) 6.30pm, 9.15pm.

NFT South Bank, SE1 [0171-928 3232] The Truman Show (PG) 2.30pm Lola (15) 6.15pm Roman Holiday (U) 6.20pm Heavy Rotation 1: New Digital Pop Promos (NC) 8.30pm Idioteiros (NC) 8.40pm.

PHOENIX High Road, N2 [0181-444 6789] Shakespeare in Love (15) 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 [0171-437 8181] Darling (NC) 1.30pm, Snake Eyes (15) 4pm, Stiletto Doors (15) 6.30pm Ronin (15) 8.45pm.

■ RICHMOND Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in the hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and the night club act. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 [0171-344 0055] \oplus Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8.30pm, Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, mats 11.45pm, £10-E30, half price Friday matinees. 160 mins.

■ RIBBLETON Musical blog show tracing the brief life of Richard III. St. Albans 7pm, 10.30pm. 9pm, 11pm.

■ RICHMOND (08705 050007) BR: Richmond Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm Hilary And Jackie 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm. Madeline 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.25pm. How Stella Got Her Groove Back 2.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Madeline 6pm, 8.30pm. Your Friends And Neighbors 9.40pm.

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 8.25pm.

RODNEY (08705 050007) BR: Rodney Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10.30pm. 9pm, 11pm.

■ RODNEY STUDIO (08705 050007) BR: Rodney Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10.30pm. 9pm, 11pm.

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TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.3-99.2MHz FM)
6.30 Scott Mills. **9.00 Simon Mayo**. 12.00 Jo Whiley. **2.00 Mark Radcliffe**. **4.00 Chris Moyles**. **5.45 Newsbeat**. **6.00 Dave Pearce**. **8.00 Steve Lamacq** - the Evening Session. **10.00 Digital Update**. **10.30 John Peel**. **12.00 The Breezeblock**. **2.00 Emma B.** **4.00 - 6.30** Cive Warren.

RADIO 2

(88.9-92.7MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30 Wake Up to Wogan**. **9.30 Ken Bruce**. **12.00 John Inverdale**. **2.00 Ed Stewart**. **5.05 Johnnie Walker**. **7.00 Alan Freeman**. Their Greatest Bits. **8.00 Nigel Ogden**. **9.00 Happy Birthday Batman**: Comedian Phil Jupitus celebrates the 60th anniversary of the American comic book character. See *Pick of the Day*. **10.00 The Directors**. See *Pick of the Day*. **10.30 Richard Allinson**. **12.00 Katrina Leskanich**. **3.00 - 4.00** Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. **9.00 Masterworks**. **10.30 Artist of the Week**. **11.00 Sound Stories**. **12.00 Composer of the Week**: Copland. **1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert**: Live from Broadcasting House, Belfast. John Foal introduces a recital of Viennese string quartets given by the Hugo Wolf Quartet of Vienna. Wolf: Italian Serenade. Webern: Five Movements, Op. 5. Brahms: String Quartet No 1 in C minor, Op. 51 No 1. **2.00 The BBC Orchestras**. **4.00 Voices**. **4.45 Music Machine**. **5.00 In Tune**. **7.30 Performance on 3**: Live from the Royal Concert Hall, the second concert in a special week-long series from Glasgow. The Kronos Quartet perform a series of premieres, introduced by Brian Morton. Carlos Paredes, arr. Goffov: Romance No 1. Anibal Troilo, arr. Goffov: Responso. Aleksander Vrablak: Pandaria Boundless. Hyo Shin Na: Song of the Beggars. Rezzo Serassi, arr. Goffov: Gloomily Sunday. Terry Riley: Funbre en el monte diablo (Requiem for Adam). Franghiz Ali-Zadeh: Oasis. See *Pick of the Day*.

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE ARE eight premieres in the Kronos Quartet's eclectic programme for the Glasgow festival **Performance on 3** (7.30pm R3): work from Philip Glass and Terry Riley sits alongside new arrangements of Hungarian gypsy music and Argentinian tangos.

It's hard to celebrate 60 years of Batman without endorsing the global industry that the caped

crusader has given rise to, but **Happy Birthday Batman** (9pm R2), presented by Phil Jupitus, gives a good history of this American institution.

There's a welcome lack of grandeur, too, from Kenneth Branagh (right) in **The Directors** (10pm R2), although the stirring soundtrack contrives to make him sound superhuman.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

8.30 Orient and Occident: Does the West still believe in an East of its own making? Or is the truth that in contemporary music and arts the border between Orient and Occident is finally fading away?

8.50 Concert, part 2: Philip Glass: New work. **Schmitt: String Quartet No 2** (not first performance). **9.40 Postscript**: Alain de Botton looks to some of the great thinkers of the past in the hope of finding philosophical cures for some everyday ills: 2 from loss of love to loss of employment, Alain de Botton turns to Seneca for sage advice.

10.00 BBC Concert Orchestra: Conductor Charles Hazlewood, Simon Harari (saxophone), Saito, orch. Debussy: *Gymnopedies*. Heath: *Moroccan Fantasy*. Saito, orch. Desormiere: Trois morsceaux en forme de poire.

10.45 Night Waves: Richard Coles reviews the premiere of Fay Weldon's new play, *The Four Alice Bakers*, and talks to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry about his new biography of *Crazy Horse*, one of the most mythologised figures in American history.

11.30 Jazz Notes. **12.00 Composer of the Week**: Dvorak. **1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night**.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94MHz FM)
6.00 Today. **9.00 NEWS; Unreliable Evidence**. **9.30 Home Thoughts**. **9.45 Serial: The Spirit Wrestlers**. **10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour**.

11.00 NEWS; Nature. **11.30 Coming Alive**. **12.00 NEWS; You and Yours**. **12.57 Weather**.

1.00 The World at One. **1.30 My Mystery Music**. **2.00 NEWS; The Archers**.

2.15 Afternoon Play: The Night House (R1). **3.00 NEWS; The Exchange**: 0870 010444.

3.30 Sale of the Century (R1). **3.45 This Sceptred Isle**.

4.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve. **4.30 Shop Talk**.

5.00 PM. **5.57 Weather**.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Mammon.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.35 Front Row: Mark Lawson chairs the arts programme.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern: An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Lesley Carrollo, Terry Molloy and Rachel Atkins. Director Peter Leslie Wild (7/30).

8.00 NEWS: File on 4. After criticism of the European Commission for inefficiency and corruption, how accountable are our MEPs? Richard Watson investigates lobbying in Brussels and asks whether the European Parliament requires enough transparency from its members.

8.40 In Touch: Peter White with news for visually impaired people.

9.00 NEWS; Behind the Brain: 'Do Not Adjust Your Mind': When we understand our minds, will they destroy our sense of self? Geoff Watts explores the nature of our existence and what this means for machines of the future.

9.30 Unreliable Evidence: Clive Anderson cuts through the jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses the legal system.

10.00 The World Tonight: With Justin Webb.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain. Patrick Malahide reads Patrick O'Brien's novel of life and adventure in Nelson's Royal Navy. Mutiny off the French coast (7/10).

11.00 NEWS: Angus Deayton's History of Alternative Comedy. Angus Deayton is joined by Eddie Izzard, Jack Dee, Ricky Grover and Meera Syal to look at how alternative comedy has broken down barriers and paved the way for people who were once the butt of traditional jokes to become the next big thing.

11.30 Talking Pictures.

12.00 NEWS.

12.30 The Late Book: Sam Peckinpah: If It Moves, Kill 'Em.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

1.30 World News.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.40 Inshore Forecast.

2.45 Prayer for the Day.

3.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (193kHz FM)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. **12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines**; **Shipping Forecast**. **5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast**. **11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament**.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.



9.00 Nicky Campbell. **12.00 The Midday News**. **1.00 Rusco and Co**. **4.00 Drive**. **7.00 News Extra**.

7.30 The Tuesday Match: Russell Fuller presents coverage of all the night's top football action.

10.00 Late Night Live: The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 10.30 a full sports round-up. **11.00 News and Finance**. And between 11.30 and 100 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion.

1.00 All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.1-109.7MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00 Henry Kelly**.

12.00 Requests: 2.30 Concerto: Benda: Flute Concerto in E minor.

Patrick Gallo, CPE Bach Co: Peter Schreier.

3.00 Jamie Cricht. **6.30 Newsnight**. **7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven**. **9.00 Evening Concert**: Music by Elgar. Introduction and Allegro. London Chamber Orchestra/Christopher Warren-Green. Cello Concerto. Mischa Maisky, Philharmonia Orchestra/Giuseppe Sinopoli. Symphony No 2 in E flat. LSO/Daniel Barenboim.

11.00 Alan Manz. **2.00 Concerto**.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (125.1-126.0MHz MW)

6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00 Henry Kelly**.

12.00 Requests: 2.30 Concerto: Benda: Flute Concerto in E minor.

Patrick Gallo, CPE Bach Co: Peter Schreier.

3.00 Jamie Cricht.

6.30 Newsnight. **7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven**. **9.00 Evening Concert**: Music by Elgar. Introduction and Allegro. London Chamber Orchestra/Christopher Warren-Green. Cello Concerto. Mischa Maisky, Philharmonia Orchestra/Giuseppe Sinopoli. Symphony No 2 in E flat. LSO/Daniel Barenboim.

11.00 Alan Manz. **2.00 Concerto**.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. **1.30 On Screen**. **1.45 Record News**. **2.00 The World Today**. **2.30 Women Who Dared to Speak**. **3.00 The World Today**. **3.20 Sports Roundup**. **3.30 World Business Report**. **3.45 Insight**. **4.00 - 7.00 The World Today** (400-700).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. **9.00 Scott Chisholm**. **1.00 Anna Raeburn**.

2.00 Peter Doherty. **5.00 The SportZone**.

7.00 Eubank's People. **8.00 James Whale**. **1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins**.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE TRIUMPH OF Anthony Minghella's The English Patient (11.45pm Sky Premier) at the Oscars two years ago was a refreshing reminder that there is still a place in Hollywood for thought-provoking films. This version of Michael Ondatje's novel cuts back and forth between different times in a manner that requires great concentration from the viewer. It also showcases wonderful performances, particularly from

Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas as the couple who embark on a doomed affair just before the Second World War, and from Juliette Binoche (right) as the nurse who later tends Fenns after a horrific air crash.

"A Beast for Heroes", tonight's episode of *Warhorse* (7pm History Channel) examines the role of the horse in war since ancient Egyptian times.

JAMES RAMPTON

Treasure Hunters (5386304). **1.30 Wheel** (5323415). **2.00 Close**.

SKY ONE **2.00 Count Duckula** (58878). **7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14852). **10.00 Hollywood Squares** (58879). **9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (14853). **10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (78897). **11.00 Gilty** (58033). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14854). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21945). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58765). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58766). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14854). **11.00 Gilty** (58033). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14855). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21946). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58767). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58768). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14856). **11.00 Gilty** (58034). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14857). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21947). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58769). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58770). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14858). **11.00 Gilty** (58035). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14859). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21948). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58771). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58772). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14850). **11.00 Gilty** (58036). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14851). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21949). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58773). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58774). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14852). **11.00 Gilty** (58037). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14853). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21940). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58775). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58776). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14854). **11.00 Gilty** (58038). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14855). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21941). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58777). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58778). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14856). **11.00 Gilty** (58039). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14857). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21942). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58779). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58780). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14858). **11.00 Gilty** (58040). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14859). **1.30 Jeopardy** (21943). **2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael** (58781). **5.00 Star Trek: Voyager** (58782). **10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (14850). **11.00 Gilty** (58041). **12.00 Jerry Jones** (14851). **1.3**

